



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: September 19, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Allyson DenBeste, Academic Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the Dyslexia Research Grant

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Background: Legislation from LB1284 requires the Nebraska Department of Education to create and administer the Dyslexia Research Grant Program for eligible applicants to apply to the department for a grant under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. The department shall prescribe the application form that is to be completed when applying for a grant under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. Eligible applicant means a privately owned business based in Nebraska that is in the process of researching artificial-intelligence-based writing assistance that can be used to assist individuals with dyslexia. The department may award a grant to any eligible applicant.

Funding: The total amount of all grants awarded under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program shall not be more than five hundred thousand dollars. Grants awarded shall be funded from the Education Future Fund. All grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program shall be used only for the purpose of researching the use of artificial-intelligence-based writing assistance by individuals with dyslexia.

Grant Administration/Selection Process: The Dyslexia Research Grant Program application is administered through the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment. The application was opened on August 9, 2024 and shared through the main NDE website as well as via direct outreach to a Nebraska based company which had inquired about the timeline and availability of the application. Applications were due September 6, 2024. Applicants were required to provide their name, email address, organization name and mailing address, description of the organization's research into artificial intelligence-based writing assistance that can be used to assist individuals with dyslexia, an evaluation plan for the research, and a budget. In addition, applicants had the option to upload any supporting documents as well as provide any relevant additional information.

Applications were scored by a review committee of NDE staff from the Offices of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment and Special Education, who scored according to a rubric which is aligned to the requirements

specified in the legislation. One application was received, from Dyslexico located at 12922 Jones St. Omaha NE with a requested amount of \$499,985.12.

Based on the application meeting all requirements of the legislation and the evaluation rubric, approval to award the following proposed recipient grant funds is sought:

Recipient	Award
Dyslexico	\$499,985.12

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2024, October 2024

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Education Future Fund
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:
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**Updated 07.06.2023*