



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** May 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Katie Graham  
Administrator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approval of the 2025-2026 reVISION Action Grants (BF.042025.006)

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

#### **Overview**

The purpose of the reVISION Action Grant is to improve, modernize, and expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to align with Nebraska's economic priorities and workforce demands. This competitive grant program provides Perkins funding to eligible secondary and postsecondary recipients to support the implementation of action steps identified through the reVISION comprehensive local needs assessment.

#### **History and Connections to Perkins V**

Since 2012, the NDE's reVISION process has been instrumental in improving and strengthening CTE in Nebraska and preparing students for high-demand careers. In 2018, the federal Perkins V legislation introduced a requirement that all eligible recipients complete a comprehensive local needs assessment to receive Perkins funding. Nebraska updated the reVISION process to meet this requirement, ensuring that local CTE programs align with industry demands and that Perkins funds are spent on identified needs.

To help school districts and community colleges act on the findings from the reVISION needs assessment, the reVISION Action Grant was created. Funded projects must focus on preparing students for high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand careers and align with Nebraska's economic and workforce priorities.

#### **Update: Funding Sources for 2025-2026**

For the 2025-2026 grant year, funding comes from:

1. Perkins Reserve Funds (Section 112(c)) – Nebraska has set aside 15% of its Perkins formula funding for competitive grants, totaling approximately \$1,052,600 for FY25. These funds must support either rural areas, schools with high numbers of CTE students, and/or schools with gaps in performance.

2. Perkins Leadership Funds (Section 124) – Approximately \$50,000 is allocated to support the final year of the ESU 7 Regional CTE pilot project, which benefits 19 school districts by identifying and sharing best practices for regional CTE delivery.
3. Grace S. Pfister Foundation Trust – Contributed approximately \$4,000 to support a rural reVISION project.
4. Special Populations Set-Asides – Two Perkins set-asides will be used for aligned projects, including the “Recruiting Special Populations” set aside (approximately \$826) and the “Institutional” set-aside, which supports individuals in state correctional institutions (approximately \$15,686)

Total Grant Funding Available: approximately \$1,123,112.00

In recent years, requests for reVISION Action Grant funding have exceeded available resources by a 3:1 ratio, demonstrating the high demand for these grants.

Since its launch, reVISION Action Grants have been awarded to:

- 93 school districts
- 6 Education Service Units (ESUs), impacting 87 districts
- 5 community colleges
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA)

### **Eligibility**

reVISION Action Grants are open to all Perkins-eligible recipients that have completed the reVISION needs assessment. This includes:

- 239 of Nebraska’s 244 school districts
- All 6 community colleges
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA)
- A consortium of eligible recipients

To ensure broad awareness of the grant opportunity, information is shared through Perkins grant recipient communications (administration), quarterly CTE newsletters, content area listservs, at ESU CTE collaboration days around the state, at Perkins Technical Assistance Meetings, to NDE staff and agency/community partners, to the Nebraska Partner Council, and to the ESU Perkins Cadre. Technical assistance and informational webinars are available to applicants.

### **Grant Administration and Selection Process**

The reVISION Action Grant is administered through the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. In December 2024, the 25-26 grant application and template/guidelines were released and shared broadly. Applications are due by March 21, 2025. Application elements include: an Application Overview, Key Objectives, Project Activities, Commitment and Capacity, and a Budget Proposal.

Applications were scored by a review committee, including NDE staff and external partners, including business and industry representatives and other NDE Office personnel outside of the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. Proposals were ranked based on:

- Alignment with reVISION outcomes and local/state workforce needs
- Strength of the proposed activities
- Commitment and Capacity

- Allowable use of funds

### ***Update: Selected Proposals***

After a thorough review of grant proposals, approval to award the following applicants is sought:

LEA	Award
Bertrand Community Schools	\$99,152.00
Central Community College	\$100,000.00
Conestoga Public Schools	\$95,956.00
Crete Public Schools	\$100,000.00
Diller-Odell Public Schools	\$100,000.00
Educational Service Unit 7*	\$150,000.00
Freeman Public Schools	\$100,000.00
Malcolm Public Schools	\$30,032.00
Metropolitan Community College	\$100,000.00
Plattsmouth Public Schools	\$85,143.00
South Sioux City Public Schools	\$88,900.00
Wakefield Community Schools	\$16,629.00
York Public Schools	\$57,300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,123,112.00</b>

*\* ESU 7 submitted a project on behalf of, and in collaboration with the 19 districts it represents: Boone Central Public Schools, Central City Public Schools, Clarkson Public Schools, Columbus Public Schools, Cross County Public Schools, David City Public Schools, East Butler Public Schools, Fullerton Public Schools, High Plains Community Schools, Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools, Humphrey Public Schools, Lakeview Community Schools, Leigh Public Schools, Osceola Public Schools, Palmer Public Schools, Schuyler Community Schools, Shelby-Rising City Public Schools, St. Edward Public Schools, Twin River Public Schools*

### ***Update: Preliminary Outcomes from the ESU 7 Regional CTE Project***

As a multi-year recipient of reVISION Action Grant funding, ESU 7 continues to demonstrate the potential of a regional approach to strengthening career and technical education (CTE) in Nebraska. Serving 19 school districts, ESU 7 has developed a scalable support model designed to help districts build and align high-quality CTE Programs. Over the past two grant cycles, ESU 7 has conducted 16 district-level data reviews that informed targeted five-year action plans. As a result, 58 CTE Programs of Study across the region have been aligned to Nebraska's CTE content area framework.

As part of this model, ESU 7 has launched an early-stage "mini-region" structure, organizing 18 districts into three regional clusters based on geographic proximity. These mini-regions are designed to support intentional collaboration around course offerings, shared programming, and resource alignment. This grant year, mini-regions will begin to implement cross-district content sharing. This approach holds particular promise for expanding access to CTE programs in small and rural districts with limited staff or specialized training or equipment.

With grant funds, ESU 7 has also expanded targeted professional development through the formation of six CTE content area networks. This emphasis on professional learning and collaboration continues to strengthen regional capacity, positioning ESU 7 to share promising practices statewide as the model evolves.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** June 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** Up to \$1,123,112.00

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Perkins (\$1,119,112), Grace S Pfister Foundation Trust (\$4,000)
- New or Renewal: New – each year there are new applicants and awards. Board approval is sought for reVISION Action Grants each year
- 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 08.15.2023*