



## **Bioindustry Careers Early Exposure Grants**

### ***Request for Proposals***

**Deadlines: Round 1: May 1, 2024 – Round 2: June 15, 2024 – Round 3: August 1, 2024 – Round 4: September 27, 2024**

#### **Overview**

With the support of funding from the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) through the CA Jobs First program, BEAM Circular seeks proposals for grants up to \$25,000 to pilot and launch bioindustry career early exposure programs. These programs should emphasize supporting STEM success among underserved and first-generation students. Funding will accelerate the adoption of industry-relevant early exposure programming across the region, support diversity in STEM, and provide useful data points for future scale-up of the bioindustry.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be local K12 schools or community colleges located in the North San Joaquin Valley, which consists of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.

#### **Grant Focus and Selection Criteria**

Grants may be used to purchase equipment, adopt curriculum, and fund teacher/faculty professional development to launch new programs relevant to the bioindustry. Grant-funded programs must develop capacity-building and educational opportunities that support STEM success among underserved or first-generation students.

Eligible uses of funds include:

- Launch BioBuilder and/or new BioTechBuilder (or equivalent) clubs, programs, or coursework in K12 or at community colleges. Includes professional development for faculty and program consumables.
- Integrate bioindustry-specific early exposure programming into local programs that support diversity and achievement in STEM in K12 or at community colleges.

Programs will be selected based on a) the program's advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the bioindustry and STEM success; b) the degree to which the proposal creates early exposure to careers in the bioindustry and builds foundational bioindustry-relevant STEM qualifications; c) the program's alignment with creating opportunity through the bioindustry.



## **Funding**

A total of \$250,000 is available in funding for awarding 10 or more grants. Grants are available in the amount of \$25,000. Applicants may request the amount that best fits the scope of their program. Grants will be reviewed and awarded in three rounds. Applications to early rounds are strongly encouraged.

## **Timeline**

We're making grants available in three rounds.

April 22, 2024, 8AM: Submissions open

May 1, 2024, 11:59PM: Deadline to submit for Round 1

June 15, 2024, 11:59PM: Deadline to submit for Round 2

August 1, 2024: Deadline to submit for Round 3

September 27, 2024: Deadline to submit for Round 4

December 30, 2024: Project Mid-point

April 15, 2025: Project Closes

*Note: Awards will be accepted and made on a rolling basis. A progress report will be requested at the grant's mid-point. Awardees will share successes and update BEAM Circular as part of the ongoing learning and strategy refinement by BEAM Circular.*

## **Proposal Instructions**

Please submit a proposal of up to 3 pages including the following:

- Name of applying institution / organization
- Primary point of contact with name, title, email, and phone number
- Description of your proposed program, including how the program will advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the bioindustry and STEM success; the degree to which the proposal creates early exposure to careers in the bioindustry and builds foundational bioindustry relevant STEM-qualifications; and the program's potential to support BEAM Circular's learning objectives and exploration of opportunities for future investment and partnership.



- High-level timeline for your program..
- Budget indicating your request for \$25,000 and a description of how you plan to use the grant (can be attached as an appendix and will not count against the allotted 3 pages).

Submit to [proposals@beamcircular.org](mailto:proposals@beamcircular.org), with the subject line "Bioindustry Careers Early Exposure Grant - [Applicant Organization]".

### **Background**

BEAM Circular is building a vibrant regional ecosystem for the [circular bioeconomy](#) in California's agricultural heartland, the North San Joaquin Valley. We are facilitating collaboration and catalyzing action through the BioEconomy, Agriculture, and Manufacturing (BEAM) Initiative, a portfolio of public and private projects designed to scale the most promising innovations in bioindustrial manufacturing and to advance solutions that support economic and environmental outcomes for local communities.

### **Informational Resources**

The following resources offer additional background, tools, and information on careers and training pathways in the bioeconomy that may be useful to applicants:

- [InnovATEBIO - National Biotechnology Innovation Center](#)
- BioMADE & STEMconnector - [Bio-industrial Manufacturing Made in the USA Report](#)
- [Building the Bioworkforce of the Future - White House Report](#)
- [Department of Energy Bioenergy Career Exploration Wheel](#)
- [BioBuilder](#)

**For more information, please contact:** [proposals@beamcircular.org](mailto:proposals@beamcircular.org)