Open Learning WV Impact Grants II

Spring 2027 Call for Proposals

Building Sustainable Open Education Across West Virginia

Overview

Open Learning WV invites proposals for Impact Grants II, supporting team-based departmental, institutional, and statewide projects that strengthen and expand the sustainable use of Open Educational Resources (OER) across West Virginia public higher education.

This round of Impact Grants is focused on moving beyond individual course adoption to projects that build lasting institutional capacity for open education. Projects should expand the use of OER while creating structures, practices, resources, partnerships, or commitments that allow the work to continue and grow after grant funding ends.

Impact Grants II are specifically intended to support collaborative work with broader and lasting impact. Individual projects and projects focused solely on converting a single course to OER will not be funded.

Award Information

Award Amount: $10,000
Anticipated Number of Awards: 6
Project Period: January 2027–June 2027

Allowable expenses may include faculty and staff stipends, professional development and training, accessibility work, project coordination, materials development, meetings and planning activities, and other costs directly supporting the project.

Funds may not be used for indirect costs, equipment unrelated to the project, or commercial textbook or other electronic purchases.

Purpose and Priority Areas

Proposals should address one or more of the following priority areas:

1. Zero-Textbook-Cost (Z) Pathways

Develop or expand Z degrees, certificates, or academic pathways through coordinated OER adoption and planning. Projects should extend beyond a single course and demonstrate how students can move through multiple courses—and ideally a complete academic program—with little or no textbook costs.

2. Institutional Policy and Sustainability

Develop policies, procedures, implementation plans, incentives, accessibility practices, review processes, or other institutional structures that support the long-term use and growth of OER.

3. Workforce-Focused Programs

Expand OER across workforce education, technical programs, career pathways, apprenticeships, and other high-demand programs. Projects should involve multiple courses, faculty, or program areas and demonstrate how OER can support affordable pathways to employment and career advancement.

4. Student Engagement

Develop initiatives that actively engage students in open education, including student-created OER, open pedagogy, peer leadership, advocacy, or other approaches that improve access, engagement, and student success.

5. Communication, Professional Development, and Adoption Planning

Develop coordinated communication strategies, faculty development opportunities, communities of practice, departmental or institutional adoption plans, or other initiatives that increase OER awareness, participation, and long-term adoption.

Team-Based Project Requirement

- All Impact Grants II projects must be team-based. Proposals should demonstrate meaningful collaboration among multiple individuals, departments, programs, or campus partners.
- Projects may include faculty teams working across multiple courses or sections, department- or program-level initiatives, coordinated campus OER efforts, or other collaborative approaches.
- Individual proposals and projects focused solely on developing, adapting, or converting a single course to OER are not eligible for funding.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a central expectation of Impact Grants II. Grant funding should serve as a catalyst for work that can continue beyond the project period rather than support activities that end when the funding ends.

Applicants should explain how their project will help OER become more sustainable at their institution. This might include:

- Integrating OER into departmental, program, or institutional planning
- Establishing policies, procedures, or ongoing support structures
- Revising hiring, tenure and promotion processes to acknowledge efforts made to promote OER and open learning
- Developing faculty leadership, OER champions, or communities of practice
- Creating ongoing professional development or training
- Building accessibility, review, and maintenance processes
- Developing or expanding Z pathways
- Establishing student engagement or advocacy efforts
- Creating reusable models, resources, or processes that can expand to other programs or departments

Eligibility

- Proposals may be submitted by teams from West Virginia public two-year and four-year institutions.
- Each proposal must identify a project lead and project team.

Accessibility and Sharing

Grant recipients will be expected to:

- Design or remediate materials using accessibility best practices
- Apply an appropriate Creative Commons license to newly created or substantially adapted materials whenever possible
- Deposit newly created or substantially adapted materials in the Open Learning WV Hyku Repository

Expected Outcomes

Successful projects should demonstrate measurable progress toward one or more of the following:

- Increased OER adoption across courses, departments, programs, or the institution
- Reduced textbook and course material costs for students
- Improved first-day access to learning materials
- Greater institutional capacity to sustain OER
- Increased collaboration among faculty and other campus partners
- Development of sustainable OER policies, practices, processes, or support structures
- Greater student awareness of and engagement with open education

Reporting and Grantee Expectations

Grant recipients will be expected to complete:

- A brief mid-project progress report
- A final report documenting project outcomes, courses and students affected, estimated student savings when applicable, and lessons learned
- Deposit of completed OER materials in the Open Learning WV Hyku Repository, when applicable
- A brief presentation, written spotlight, or other opportunity to share the project with the statewide Open Learning WV community

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted through the designated Open Learning WV Impact Grants II electronic application form: Open Learning WV Impact Grants II 2027 -- Call for Proposals – Fill out form

We recommend drafting responses in a Word document before copying and pasting them into the electronic form.

Applications will include:

Project Information

- Project lead, institution, and contact information
- Project team members and their roles
- Priority area(s) addressed
- Project title

Project Description, 400 words maximum
Describe the project, the work to be completed, and how the project extends beyond an individual course or individual OER adoption.

Statement of Need and Expected Impact, 250 words maximum
Describe the need the project addresses, who will benefit, and the anticipated impact on affordability.

Implementation Plan with Milestones, 250 words maximum
Identify the major activities, responsibilities, timeline, and milestones for completing the project.

Evaluation Plan, 250 words maximum
Explain how success will be measured. Measures might include courses converted, students affected, dollars saved, faculty engaged, resources created, policies or processes established, or OER adoption commitments secured.

Sustainability Plan, 300 words maximum
Describe how the project will strengthen the long-term sustainability of OER at your institution. What will remain in place after the grant funding ends? Identify the people, processes, policies, resources, institutional commitments, or other structures that will support continued OER use and growth. Explain how materials will be maintained and

updated, how the work will continue without additional grant funding, and how the project could be expanded or replicated across your institution.

Budget and Justification
Provide an itemized project budget with a brief rationale for each expense and explain how the requested funding directly supports the proposed work.

Applicant Attestation

By checking "Yes," I attest that:

- I am eligible to apply; and
- I have received approval to submit this grant application from my institution's Sponsored Programs Office, Research Corporation, Grants Office, or other appropriate campus office or administrator (dean, vice president).

Timeline

CFP Released: September 29, 2026
Proposals Due: November 9, 2026
Awards Announced: November 23, 2026
Project Period: January to mid-June 2027
Final Reports Due: July 2027

How to Apply

Submit applications through the Open Learning WV Impact Grants II application form by the published deadline: Open Learning WV Impact Grants II 2027 -- Call for Proposals – Fill out form

Questions may be directed to:

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