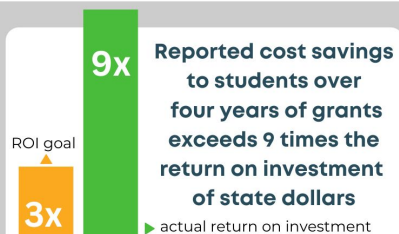




# Open Educational Resources Grants 24/25 - Cohort 6

Chealsye Bowley | CDHE Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation  
SS&WA Standing Committee Meeting | 22 January 2024

# COLORADO OER DASHBOARD



Grant Years 1-4:

INVESTMENT OF

**\$3.4**

MILLION AWARDED

**\$1.37**

million cost savings to students in fourth cycle



## History of the state OER grant program

- 2017: Senate Bill 17-258 forms the OER Council and establishes the grant program
- 2018: \$550,000 awarded to fund 20 grants
- 2019: \$1 million awarded to 35 institutions
- 2020: \$875,000 awarded to 27 grants
- 2021: Senate Bill 21-215 funds the program for 5 more years at \$1 million annually and \$875,000 awarded to 27 grants
- 2022: \$968,803 awarded to 20 grants
- 2023: \$960,018 awarded to 25 grants

### 2022-2023 COHORT 4 GRANTEEES

**18**

Institutional grants

**2**

small group grants

**20**

Colorado public institutions

11 cohort 4 proposals were awarded two-year project grants

**1,671**

course titles have been addressed by grantees over four years

**\$31.5**

million estimated student savings over four years

**113,000**

students in Colorado are enrolled in a course with OER grant materials annually



# \$31.5 million

The first 4 years of the Colorado OER grant program has brought the reported savings for students to over \$31 million - from a \$3.4 million investment.



# Zero Textbook Cost Degrees

- Colorado State University B.A. Spanish
- Colorado School of Mines launched M.S. in mechanical engineering in Fall 2023
- Multiple institutions offer A.A. and A.S. Z-degrees, including Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University of Denver
- University of Colorado Denver is presently undertaking a B.S. in mathematics
- Arapahoe Community College is pursuing Z-degrees in communications and astronomy



# 2023 Request for Proposals Changes

- Expansion of grant award categories
- Eligibility to address automatic textbook billing programs
- Emphasis on collaborative and Z-degrees with the goal of \$500,000 to be awarded to z-degree proposals



# Eligibility

- Institutional Grants are open to any public postsecondary institution in the state of Colorado as defined in C.R.S. Title 23, which is inclusive of institutional systems.
- Individual or Small Group Grants are open to any faculty, instructor, or staff member employed by a public institution of higher education in the state of Colorado.
- Collaborative or Partnership grants may be among multiple institutions of higher education, including private institutions, or regional campus collaborations, or for courses taught in local K-12 school districts. Public institutions of higher education must be the lead applicant.
- **Institutions with automatic textbook billing programs, often referred to as inclusive access and equitable access programs, are not eligible for the grant type 4: general incentive fund during this cycle.**



## Grant award categories

- 1A: Complete General Education / AA + Major Z-degree
- 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree
- 2A: Collaborative
- 2B: Collaborative Z-degree
- 3: Small group
- 4: General Incentive Fund
- 5: Individual Course



# 33% of proposals were for Z-degrees

One-third of proposals received for Cohort 6 of the OER grant program were to adopt or create OER to prove a zero textbook cost degree pathway.



# Grant timeline



<b>September 2023:</b>	RFP Release
<b>October - November 2023:</b>	Grant webinars and office hours
<b>December 18 2023:</b>	OER grant proposals due
<b>January 2024:</b>	Review of grant proposals
<b>February 2024:</b>	Recommendations for awards to CCHE
<b>March 2024:</b>	Award notifications
<b>May 2024:</b>	Funds to be disbursed by CDHE
<b>January 2025:</b>	Progress report due
<b>June 30 2025:</b>	All grant funds must be spent down
<b>July 2025:</b>	Remaining funds return to CDHE
<b>August 15 2025:</b>	Final reports due



# How proposals were evaluated

- Selection criteria
  - Project description, impact to enrollment and cost, institutional support, how it aligns to current needs, strength of implementation plan and timeline, how the project addressed DEI and accessibility, sustainability, and evaluation plan.
- Rubric was made public
- Colorado OER Council members were assigned to review



# Sustainability

- Sustainability was a metric when scoring proposals
- Z-degree are significant culture change for departments
- Partnerships between institutions indicate sustainable collaboration
- Examples of commitment from institutions:
  - Dedicated librarians, instructional designer time for OER
  - Funding for professional development



# Trends in Cohort 6 OER Grants

- Zero Textbook Degree development
- Faculty led collaborative projects
- Nursing coursework at five institutions



# Recommendations for OER grants

- \$1,000,000
  - 1 two year grant from Cohort 5
  - 11 general incentive fund grants
  - 9 institutional Z-degree grants
  - 4 collaborative grants
  - 4 individual grants
  - 1 small group grant
- Largest amount awarded \$100,000
- Smallest amount awarded \$3,500

# Recommended grants: Z-degrees



Grant Type	Proposal Title	Institution
1A: Complete Z-degree	Making it Stick II: Building on CNCC's OER Adoption Efforts to Enhance OER Utilization, Longevity, and complete AA degree	Colorado Northwestern Community College
1A: Complete Z-degree	Open Roadrunners Year 6: Transformative Educational Advancements through Open Educational Resources and Zero Textbook Cost Degrees	Metro State University
1A: Complete Z-degree	Peak Learning: Elevating MBA Education through Open Educational Resources (OERs)	Western Colorado University
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	Early Childhood Education Zero Textbook Cost Project	Arapahoe Community College
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	Generation and Expansion of OER Major Coursework Z-Degree, Business for Creative Industries, BAS Degree Program	Front Range Community College
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	Aims CC OER 6 Major Coursework Z-Degree	Aims Community College
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	Mathematics and Data Science Z-degrees at CU Denver	University of Colorado Denver
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	Staging Success: A ZTC degree pathway for RRCC Theatre Studies	Red Rocks Community College
1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree	OER Textbook Adoption for a More Inclusive Business Law Program	Western Colorado University
2B: Collaborative Z-Degree	Lowering Textbook Costs for Undergraduate Nursing Students: A Collaborative Project between the University of Colorado College of Nursing and Fort Lewis College	University of Colorado Anschutz, Fort Lewis College



# Recommended grants: Collaborations and small group

Grant Type	Proposal Title	Institution
2A: Collaborative	Collaborative OER Mathematics Textbooks	University of Northern Colorado, Fort Lewis College, Metro State University
2A: Collaborative	Development of the Colorado OER Anatomy Hub	University of Colorado Anschutz, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Denver, Colorado College, Colorado State University, Aurora Science and Tech High School
2A: Collaborative	Colorado Community College System OER Course Development Mini Grants	Colorado Community College System, Colorado Online, Pikes Peak State College
3: Small Group	OER Expansion in Nursing Curricula at ACC	Arapahoe Community College

# Recommended grants: general incentive



Grant Type	Proposal Title	Institution
4: General Incentive Fund	Cultivating Open Education: Sustaining Momentum for OER/ZTC Integration at UNC	University of Northern Colorado
4: General Incentive Fund	Closing the Gaps with OER	Community College of Denver
4: General Incentive Fund	Open Mines: Deploying Open Educational Resource (OER) Development at Colorado School of Mines	Colorado School of Mines
4: General Incentive Fund	General Education OER at CCA: Building the Foundation of Z-Program Pathways	Community College of Aurora
4: General Incentive Fund	Incentivizing OER Adoption at ACC	Arapahoe Community College
4: General Incentive Fund	Pikes Peak State College OER Initiative	Pikes Peak State College
4: General Incentive Fund	Adams State Online Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development Incentive Program	Adams State University
4: General Incentive Fund	Putting students at the center through OER	Fort Lewis College
4: General Incentive Fund	Aims CC OER 6 General Incentive	Aims Community College
4: General Incentive Fund	Exploring Open Possibilities: Dual OER Course Conversions	Red Rocks Community College
4: General Incentive Fund	MSU Denver Open Roadrunners: OER incentives for widespread OER adoption in 2024-25	Metro State University
4: General Incentive Fund	CSU Pueblo, A DOER Campus by 2028: Z-Degrees For The Win	Colorado State University Pueblo
Two Year	More CMU MORE (Colorado Mesa University Maverick Open Resource Educators)	Colorado Mesa University



# Recommended grants: individual projects



Grant Type	Proposal Title	Institution
5: Individual Course	Development of an online Teaching Assistantship Training Course	University of Colorado Anschutz
5: Individual Course	Statics: A Student-Centered Approach	Colorado School of Mines
5: Individual Course	Bridging Music Technology Educational Gap: Revision and Expansion of O.E.R. Zero-Cost Textbook and Teaching Website for “Digital Music Techniques MUSC4820/MSRA5820”	University of Colorado Denver
5: Individual Course	Beyond the Textbook: Advancing Physics Using OER	Red Rocks Community College

# Recommended OER grant recipients





**Friday, May 17 at the Auraria Campus**



# Upcoming changes to the program

- Revising reporting requirements
- More regular, informal check-ins for progress from recipients
- Summer outreach to institutions without prior awards
- OER RFP 2023/24 will have minor revisions, released September



# Got questions?

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