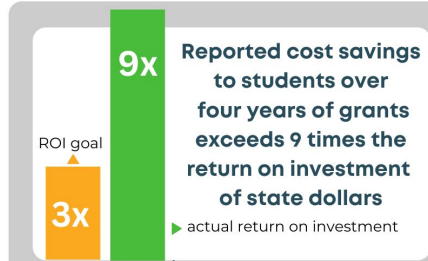




Open Educational Resources Grants 24/25 - Cohort 6

Chealsye Bowley | CDHE Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation
SS&WA Standing Committee Meeting | 26 February 2024

COLORADO OER DASHBOARD



Grant Years 1-4:

INVESTMENT OF
\$3.4
MILLION AWARDED

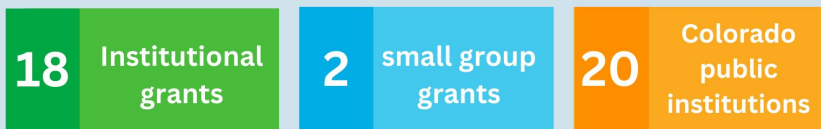
\$1.37
million cost savings to students in fourth cycle



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



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



| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| September 2023: | RFP Release |
| October - November 2023: | Grant webinars and office hours |
| December 18 2023: | OER grant proposals due |
| January 2024: | Review of grant proposals |
| February 2024: | Recommendations for awards to CCHE |
| March 2024: | Award notifications |
| May 2024: | Funds to be disbursed by CDHE |
| January 2025: | Progress report due |
| June 30 2025: | All grant funds must be spent down |
| July 2025: | Remaining funds return to CDHE |
| August 15 2025: | 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
 - 9 general incentive fund grants
 - 9 institutional Z-degree grants
 - 4 collaborative grants
 - 3 individual grants
 - 1 small group grant
- Largest amount awarded \$100,000
- Smallest amount awarded \$5,000



Half of funds to z-degrees

\$485,021 of the \$1 million recommended to be award to projects to develop or complete pathways for Zero Textbook Cost degrees



\$650,837

to collaborative and Zero Textbook Cost proposals.

The Colorado OER Council set out with a goal for the OER grant cycle 6 to award at least \$500,000 for collaborative and z-degree grants.

Highlight: Collaborative Nursing Z-degree CU Anschutz & Fort Lewis College

- Collaborative project that will provide FLC students in pre-nursing track and CU Anschutz nursing students with a pathway to complete their degree with zero textbook cost
- PIs: Dr. Teresa Connolly (CU Anschutz); Tyler Dunn (FLC)
 - CU System “mini grant” recipient, individual OER grantee in cohort 4, multiple successful FLC institutional grants
- 10 courses will be addressed in the 2024-2025 grant period
- Phase one, year one projected annual cost savings: **\$233,467.92**

| College | Number of Students | Individual Cost savings | Total Cost Savings |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Fort Lewis College | 56 | \$428.73 | 24,008.88 |
| CU College of Nursing | 408 | \$513.38 | 209,459.04 |
| | | 942.11 | 233,467.92 |

Recommended grants: Z-degrees

| Grant Type | Proposal Title | Institution | 2024/25 C6 OER Award |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| 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 | \$74,000 |
| 1A: Complete Z-degree | Open Roadrunners Year 6: Transformative Educational Advancements through Open Educational Resources and Zero Textbook Cost Degrees | Metro State University | \$100,000 |
| 1A: Complete Z-degree | Peak Learning: Elevating MBA Education through Open Educational Resources (OERs) | Western Colorado University | \$28,000 |
| 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree | Early Childhood Education Zero Textbook Cost Project | Arapahoe Community College | \$18,957 |
| 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 | \$31,500 |
| 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree | Aims CC OER 6 Major Coursework Z-Degree | Aims Community College | \$13,320 |
| 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree | Mathematics and Data Science Z-degrees at CU Denver | University of Colorado Denver | \$68,671 |
| 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree | Staging Success: A ZTC degree pathway for RRCC Theatre Studies | Red Rocks Community College | \$45,000 |
| 1B: Major Coursework Z-Degree | OER Textbook Adoption for a More Inclusive Business Law Program | Western Colorado University | \$9,000 |

Recommended grants: Collaborations and small group

| Grant Type | Proposal Title | Institution | 2024/25 C6 OER Award |
|----------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| 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 | \$100,000 |
| 2A: Collaborative | Collaborative OER Mathematics Textbooks | University of Northern Colorado, Fort Lewis College, Metro State University | \$51,916 |
| 2A: Collaborative | Development of the Colorado OER Anatomy Hub | University of Colorado Anschutz / Collaborators: University of Colorado Colorado Springs, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Denver, Colorado College, Colorado State University, Aurora Science and Tech High School | \$65,410 |
| 2A: Collaborative | Colorado Community College System OER Course Development Mini Grants | Colorado Community College System | \$45,563 |
| 3: Small Group | OER Expansion in Nursing Curricula at ACC | Arapahoe Community College | \$13,220 |

Recommended grants: general incentive

| Grant Type | Proposal Title | Institution | 2024/25 C6 OER Award |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Cultivating Open Education: Sustaining Momentum for OER/ZTC Integration at UNC | University of Northern Colorado | \$29,995 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Open Mines: Deploying Open Educational Resource (OER) Development at Colorado School of Mines | Colorado School of Mines | \$30,000 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | General Education OER at CCA: Building the Foundation of Z-Program Pathways | Community College of Aurora | \$30,000 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Incentivizing OER Adoption at ACC | Arapahoe Community College | \$29,300 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Pikes Peak State College OER Initiative | Pikes Peak State College | \$21,375 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Adams State Online Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development Incentive Program | Adams State University | \$29,990 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | Putting students at the center through OER | Fort Lewis College | \$20,263 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | MSU Denver Open Roadrunners: OER incentives for widespread OER adoption in 2024-25 | Metro State University | \$30,000 |
| 4: General Incentive Fund | CSU Pueblo, A DOER Campus by 2028: Z-Degrees For The Win | Colorado State University Pueblo | \$30,000 |
| Two Year | More CMU MORE (Colorado Mesa University Maverick Open Resource Educators) | Colorado Mesa University | \$74,520 |

Recommended grants: individual projects



| Grant Type | Proposal Title | Institution | 2024/25 C6 OER Award |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5: Individual Course | Statics: A Student-Centered Approach | Colorado School of Mines | \$5,000 |
| 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 | \$5,000 |

Recommended OER grant recipients



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO





Friday, May 17 at the Auraria Campus



Got questions?

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