



Grow Your Own Educator Pipeline Grant

Cohort 4 Technical Assistance Webinar

May 29, 2025



Grant Program Overview



FY26 One-time funds approved

\$7,327,000 (Cohort 4: FY26-FY27)



Competitive grant program providing funding to LEAs to award scholarships to:

Paraprofessionals
School counselor assistants
School counselor candidates
School psychologist candidates
School social worker candidates



Funds can be used for:

Tuition, books, fees, certification exams, FTE, and stipends for mentors and school counselor assistants



Changes From Previous Cohorts

- School social workers and school psychologists were added to the grant.
- Candidates who participated in previous cohorts may qualify for one additional year of funding (need to apply as part of the cohort 4 application). Candidates may only participate in 3 total fiscal years (across all cohorts).
- FTE funding is \$9,000 per semester (max 2 semesters) for school counselor, school social worker, and school psychologist internships.

Previous Cohort Reminders

- **June 30, 2025:** All Cohort 3 funds must be spent.
- **July 14, 2025:** All reimbursement requests for Cohort 3 due in the Utah Grants Management System (Utah Grants)
- **July 14, 2025:** Cohort 3 FY25 Year-End Report due

*Invoices for unexpended lump sum funds will be sent after the FY25 Year-End Reports are finalized.

Cohort 4 Timeline

- **May 23, 2025:** Cohort 4 competitive application opens in Utah Grants
- **June 20, 2025:** Cohort 4 application due in Utah Grants
- **July 2025:** Cohort 4 award notifications sent in Utah Grants
- **October 17, 2025:** Cohort 4 Accountability Report due in Google Drive



Who Completes the Application?

- The Local Education Agency (LEA)
- The Regional Education Service Center (RESA)
 - The bill also appropriates money for RESA administration costs if their application is awarded



Application Details (1)

- Application can be accessed through Utah Grants as a competitive grant program titled **26PQA Grow Your Own Educator Grant – Cohort 4**
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and [Scoring Rubric](#) (links also available in the application program attachments)
- Applications that are not submitted by the deadline and do not include completed LEA Overview and Contact Information will not be reviewed.
 - All applications must be submitted in Utah Grants. Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.

Application Details (2)

- Application process is similar to previous years, but the LEA candidate and mentor information will be submitted as a **DOC or PDF file** attachment in the Utah Grants application.

Section B: LEA Statement of Need		50 pts
Write a brief, overview narrative for each question below explaining the rationale for funding and assessment of need in your LEA. Response to each question should not exceed 200 words.		
1. Comprehensive overview of LEA's need for strengthening their educator pipeline. <i>(Limit your response to 200 words.)</i>		
2. LEA's capacity to support GYO candidates, including: a. mentors' qualifications and how mentoring will build candidates' capacity as future educators; and b. collaboration with institutions of higher education and other stakeholders to support candidates on their pathway to licensure. <i>(Limit your response to 200 words.)</i>		
3. LEA's recruitment strategies to increase the diversity of educator candidates and identify candidates' need for scholarship. <i>(Limit your response to 200 words.)</i>		

Funding Requests per Candidate Includes Annual Costs up to:

- **\$12,000** for *paraprofessional* candidates in an undergraduate program (includes tuition, books, fees, and certification exams).
- **\$14,000** for *school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker* candidates in a master's graduate program (includes tuition, books, fees, and certification exams).
- **\$7,000** in stipend funds for *school counselor assistant* in an undergraduate program in a related field (e.g., sociology, psychology, family, community & human development, etc.).
- **\$9,000** for **0.35 FTE** during the teacher candidate's student teaching semester (one semester) and during the school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker internship semesters (two semesters). To qualify for FTE funding, LEAs must pay 0.15 FTE and all associated employee benefits. This funding can only be used during the student teaching semester or during the year the candidate is completing practicum or internship hours.

Candidate Definitions (1)

- **Paraprofessional** *means an individual who works with students in an LEA as a paraprofessional or in a similar teaching assistant position and is not professionally licensed to teach. Paraprofessionals need to have been employed in the LEA for at least one school year, with up to 20% exception as defined in Utah Code Section 53F-5-218.*
- **Teacher Candidate** *means the candidate was a paraprofessional who was awarded a scholarship and was offered employment as a teacher before the teacher completed training to become a professionally licensed teacher, and is working as a teacher for the same LEA where they previously worked as a paraprofessional and was awarded the scholarship.*

Candidate Definitions (2)

- **School Counselor assistant** *means a student who is enrolled in an accredited bachelor's degree program in a related field and is completing the student's practicum experience in a school counseling department under the supervision of a licensed school counselor, as defined in Utah Code Section 53F-5-218.*
- **School Counselor candidate** *means a student who is enrolled in an accredited school counselor master's degree program and is completing the student's hours of a supervised counseling internship by applying appropriate school counseling techniques under the supervision of a licensed school counselor, as defined in Utah Code Section 53F-5-218.*

Candidate Definitions (3)

- **School Psychologist candidate** *means a student who is enrolled in an accredited school psychology degree program and/or completing the student's hours of a supervised practicum or internship by applying appropriate school psychology practices under the supervision of a licensed school psychologist.*
- **School Social Worker candidate** *means a student who is enrolled in an accredited social work master's degree program and/or completing the student's hours of a supervised practicum or internship by applying appropriate school social work practices under the supervision of a licensed social worker.*



Candidate Information

- Application
 - Candidate name
 - Candidate Type
 - Funding per FY (Program Assistance, FTE Assistance, FTE Match)
 - Anticipated graduation date
 - Mentor name
- Accountability Report
 - Verify application information
 - Other financial assistance
 - Employment experience
 - Pathway to Utah licensure / enrollment in bachelor/master's degree program
 - Clinical experience (school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker)

Mentors

\$500 for each mentor
supervising 1-2 candidates

\$700 for each mentor
supervising 3-4 candidates

\$1,000 for each mentor
supervising 5 candidates

**Each mentor cannot supervise more than five candidates in this program.*

Mentor means a educator selected in consultation with a candidate's principal who has a professional educator license and license area in the field for which the educator is mentoring, has no less than three years full-time experience in the appropriate license area, has effective or highly effective evaluations in accordance with [Board Rule R277-323](#), has proven success in positively improving student outcomes, and follows all applicable supervision and mentoring requirements from a candidate's educator preparation program and [Board Rule R277-308](#). Mentor teachers also model the use of high leverage teaching practices that meet the needs of diverse learners, demonstrate content and grade-level expertise, and effectively collaborate with colleagues, families, and the broader community, as defined in [Board Rule R277-320](#).



Mentor Information

- Application
 - Mentor Name
 - Type of mentor
 - Names of candidates they will be mentoring per FY
 - Funding per FY
- Accountability Report
 - Verify application information
 - Type of professional-level license held
 - Meet the definition of mentor as described in Board Rule R277-320-2(3)

Utah Grants Application Process (1)

- Review the guidance document for [Competitive Grant Applications in Utah Grants](#)
- The GYO Cohort 4 program (FY26 - FY27) will be set up as reimbursement in Utah Grants.
- For questions on Utah Grants, please contact the Utah Grants Support Desk: (801) 538-7604 or utahgrants@schools.utah.gov.

Utah Grants Application Process (2)

- The USBE GYO Grants team will review all Cohort 4 applications submitted in Utah Grants that meet the submission criteria.
- Awarded LEAs will be notified through Utah Grants in July - August 2025
 - LEAs may be approved for less than the requested amount. If so, LEAs will need to adjust their application budget in Utah Grants and resubmit for approval.
- Once Cohort 4 Accountability Reports are approved, LEAs can request reimbursement through Utah Grants for funds paid to candidates and mentors.

Accountability Report Details

- Verify required candidate and mentor information for all awarded LEAs receiving funding for Cohort 4 (FY26 and FY27).
 - If your LEA has no changes in candidate or mentor information from your application, you can copy and paste from the application.
 - If you have made changes to candidates or mentors participating, provide the updated information and total amounts.
- Total amount reported cannot exceed the total amount awarded.
- Due Friday, October 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (MDT).
- Submitted in Cohort 4 GYO Google Folder.
- For questions, contact growyourowneducator@schools.utah.gov.





**Utah State
Board of
Education**

Contact Us

Send questions to growyourowneducator@schools.utah.gov and the next available grant team member will reply.

Lisa McLachlan
Educator Preparation Coordinator

Liz Bernfeld
Educator Prep Competency Specialist

Shaleece Oldroyd
Administrative Secretary

