

2024 M.O.S.T. Institutional OER Grant Program **Request for Proposals**

Overview

The Maryland Open Source Textbook initiative (M.O.S.T.) is seeking proposals for the Institutional OER Grant Program, which supports strategic institutional efforts to increase access, affordability, and achievement for students at Maryland's postsecondary institutions through more systemic incorporation of open educational resources (OER) into teaching practice.¹

For 2024-25, selected institutions will be awarded \$20,000 grants to support significant advances in OER adoption, scaling, and sustainability in support of student success. In addition, grantees will receive strategic planning and implementation support for their projects from M.O.S.T. in the form of consultations and regular monthly check-ins.

Institutions applying for these grants should be able to articulate a vision for how OER will help them achieve strategic goals, such as:

- supporting or enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion,
- developing and assessing OER pathways (such as across general education or several required courses in a major),
- creating tighter connections between the use of OER and evidence-based practices in teaching,
- creating tighter connections between the use of OER and recognized [high-impact educational practices](#),
- building the infrastructure to support faculty in adopting OER into their teaching practice,
- building the infrastructure to support faculty in making customizations to OER to improve fit with institutional priorities, local or geographic contexts, and/or student backgrounds and interests.

This list is meant to be illustrative rather than comprehensive, but all proposals should reflect a vision that goes beyond simply increasing adoptions of OER.

Applications should also explain how the institution will nurture and sustain this next-level work after the funding period ends, and applicants are encouraged to explore projects that meaningfully include students as collaborators.

Proposals must be submitted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTInstitutional> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Participation Requirements

Awardees commit to the following if selected:

- Submit a project plan at the end of the planning period (due August 31, 2024) and complete a brief final grant report (due June 30, 2025).
- Regular check-ins with M.O.S.T. staff and possibly other institutional grantees
- Share outcomes and lessons learned either on campus or through a M.O.S.T. event or webinar.

¹ For more information about the M.O.S.T. initiative, visit <http://www.oer-maryland.org/>

- Openly license and share any adapted or newly created OER content through the M.O.S.T. Commons.²
- Assist in collection of de-identified faculty and student impact data.³

Eligibility Criteria

The Institutional OER Grant Program is open to all accredited Maryland postsecondary institutions. To be eligible for an Institutional OER Grant, all project proposals must:

- Articulate the ways in which the project will help the institution achieve strategic goals.
- Include a vision, plan, and evidence of commitment to support incorporating OER more systematically into the curriculum as well as creating tighter connections between OER use and evidence-based teaching practices, including open pedagogy.
- Explain how the institution plans to garner stakeholder engagement and sustain this work after the grant ends.
- Provide a well-articulated plan for assessing project outcomes (both in terms of cost savings/return on investment and student learning) and for engaging in continuous quality improvement.
- Include a letter of support from the chief academic officer and/or president of the institution.

Additionally, priority will be given to projects that explore how OER can support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

While we recognize there are many ways to reduce costs of learning materials used in courses, for purposes of this funding opportunity we are looking for institutional projects that support efforts to replace traditional instructional materials/textbooks with learning resources that:

- Are openly licensed with a Creative Commons 4.0 International License.
- Are fully accessible according to WCAG 2.0 and WCAG 2.1 Standards.
- Are openly and freely available outside their delivery platforms.
- Provide students with day-one access to their learning materials.
- Allow students to retain access to the OER content after the course is completed.
- Are continuously updated and maintained.
- Are easily discoverable.
- Cost below \$40 / student, with lower costs preferred.

2024 Institutional OER Grant Program Timeline

- **January 10, 2024:** Call for proposals opens
- **January 22, 2024 (2:00-3:00 p.m. ET):** 2024 OER Grant Program Information Session – [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **March 8, 2024 (11:59 p.m. ET):** Deadline for all proposals
- **April 19, 2024:** Grantees notified
- **May 2024:** Grantee kickoff webinar (Date TBD)
- **August 31, 2024:** Project plan due

² The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) Commons is a collaborative, online space designed to support the sharing and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER). Through M.O.S.T. Commons, you will have the opportunity to access openly licensed content and collaborate with faculty within your institution and across Maryland. The site also provides faculty with authoring tools to create their own OER. (<https://most.oercommons.org/>)

³ Data collection instruments and protocols will be reviewed and approved by your institution's IRB in advance of implementation.

- **Academic Year 2024-2025:** Implementation of grant-funded projects and consultative support from M.O.S.T. on monthly basis.
- **June 30, 2025:** Final report due

Proposal Review and How to Submit

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select proposals for funding:

- Degree to which proposal meets or exceeds eligibility requirements.
- Potential for the project to increase affordability, accessibility, and achievement for students.
- The adequacy of the plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.
- Level of institutional support and commitment from leadership, including the potential for institutional matching (monetary and/or in-kind).
- The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of this grant.

To submit your proposal:

Using this document as a guide, complete the M.O.S.T. Institutional OER Grant Program Application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTInstitutional> by **11:59 PM ET on Friday, March 8, 2024.**

2024 M.O.S.T. Institutional OER Grant Program Sample Application

OVERVIEW

To submit a proposal for the M.O.S.T. Institutional OER Grant Program, complete the application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTInstitutional>

Using the criteria described above as a guide, provide answers to the following questions making sure to stay within the maximum word count where noted.

All proposals must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 8, 2024.**

If you have any questions about the program or the application, please contact us at most@usmd.edu.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Grant Lead
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Title
 - Email Address
 - Institution
 - Department
2. If your project team includes other members, please include the following information for each member:
 - First Name, Last Name, Title, Email Address, Institution, Department

PROJECT DETAILS

3. Submit a narrative that describes your plans for implementing your project during AY 2024-2025. Please be sure to address the Eligibility Criteria and Participation Requirements noted in the Request for Proposals. [Maximum 2000 words; Must be uploaded as a single file; files must be in PDF format; File size limit 16MB]
4. Submit a budget and budget narrative for your project. Funds can be used in a variety of ways including faculty stipends, release time, travel, and the like. [Must be uploaded as a single file; files must be in PDF format; File size limit 16MB]
5. Submit letters of support for the project from your chief academic officer and/or other senior leaders who will be impacted by the work. [Must be uploaded as a single file; files must be in PDF format; File size limit 16MB]