

Coaching For Excellence (CfE) Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: When is the deadline for applying for this grant?

A: July 15, 2023.

2. Q: What is the \$100,000 to be used for?

A: Up to \$100,000 is being given to non-receivership CSI schools participating in CfE to pay for the salary and benefits cost of an instructional coach in the building for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. Q: What if the cost of salary and benefits for participating in CfE exceeds \$100,000?

A: The district is responsible for any costs that exceed the \$100,000 provided by the CfE grant. SIG funds could be used for this purpose.

4. Q: Do I have access to the remaining funds if the salary and benefits for the coach are less than \$100,000?

A: No. The grant is only for salary and benefits. Any unused portion of the grant will remain with NYSED and be distributed in future grants.

5. Q: What happens to the coach after the one-year CfE program?

A: While this is a one-year program, the Department intends to provide bridge funding in 2024-25 at 50% of the amount provided in 2023-24 if the school continues to employ the Coaching for Excellence participant as an instructional coach at the same school during the 2024-25 school year.

6. Q: Our school received instructional coaching from our BOCES last year. Would we be eligible to participate?

A: Yes. Schools that received instructional coaching from their BOCES or from a coach provided by the district would be eligible for this grant, since the coach was not school based. For the purposes of this grant, "school-based" is defined as an instructional coach who reports directly to someone in the school building (i.e., the principal, an assistant principal) who is responsible for the instructional coach's annual evaluation.

7. Q: What if there is more than one non-receivership school that is in the CSI support model in our district?

A: The grant is open to all non-Receivership schools in the CSI support model, provided those schools meet the specified eligibility criteria.

8. Q: If my school already has an instructional coach, are we still eligible to apply?

A: No, the 2023-24 CFE grant is intended for schools that would not otherwise have an instructional coach in the upcoming school year.

9. Q: Can schools use the CfE grant to pay for two part-time instructional coaches?

A: Secondary schools applying for the 2023-24 Title I School Improvement Grant 1003 COACHING FOR EXCELLENCE may elect to have two 0.5 FTE instructional coaches that may also have 0.5 FTE teaching

responsibilities. Elementary level coaches are required to fulfill a 1.0 FTE at the designated school.

10. Q: Will CfE coaches be required to teach?

A: The instructional coach should not have any teaching responsibilities for the 2023-24 school year, with the limited exception that secondary schools may elect to have two 0.5 FTE instructional coaches that may also have 0.5 FTE teaching responsibilities.

11. Q: What if we are not sure who the coach and/or participating teachers will be for this program?

A: TBD may be used on the application if the coach and/or teachers have not been determined at the time of the Application; however, there must be at least ten teachers who will have volunteered to be coached for the duration of the school year.

12. Q: Do the teachers to be coached have to be classroom teachers or specific curriculum-area teachers?

A: No. Instructional coaching is for any professional who interacts in an instructional capacity with students (e.g., Art, PE, and Music teachers, general or special education teachers in co-teaching assignments, counselors, etc.)

13. Q: Can the Principal accompany the coach at the Albany Institute, or other in-person regional convenings?

A: Since these professional development sessions are tailored to the needs of first-year coaches, we consider these events as “coach-only” events and appreciate your understanding.

14. Q: Is it allowable to use funds from the CfE grant to purchase the book Taking the Lead: New Roles for Teachers and School-Based Coaches by Joellen Killion and Cindy Harrison?

A: No; however, SIG Basic funds may be used to purchase the book.

15. Q: Where do we find the book Taking the Lead: New Roles for Teachers and School-Based Coaches by Joellen Killion and Cindy Harrison?

A: The book can be ordered directly from the publisher [here](#).

16. Q: Is it allowable to use the Coaching for Excellence Grant to pay for the coach's travel and lodging at mandatory events?

A: No; however, SIG Basic funds may be used to cover any travel expenses for the CfE program.

17. Q: Our school participated in the program last year. Can we apply for the both the Bridge Funding and the CFE new Coaching Funding?

A: No. To be eligible for Bridge Funding, the coach must remain an instructional coach at that school. This would mean that the school would not be eligible for new Coaching funding since eligibility for that program is limited to those that would not otherwise have an instructional coach in place in 2023-24.

18. Q: We do not have anyone on staff interested in being a coach. Can we bring someone new to our school and hire them as a coach so we can participate?

A: No. Part of the program's Theory of Action is that teachers will be more inclined to respond to a colleague's feedback when they perceive the person providing the feedback as someone who understands the school community from having been a teacher in that building. If a school cannot identify anyone among the current staff to participate, then the school would not be eligible for the grant.