Colorado First and Existing Industry Grants

- **Source**: [https://www.cccs.edu/industry/programs/](https://www.cccs.edu/industry/programs/)
- **Description**: Both programs are jointly administered by the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and managed through participating colleges. Colorado’s job training programs provide $4.5M in grants per year to companies that are locating or expanding in Colorado; rolling.

**State Department**: Colorado’s job training programs provide $4.5M in grants per year to companies that are locating or expanding in Colorado.

**Funding**: Colorado’s job training programs provide $4.5M in grants per year to companies that are locating or expanding in Colorado.

**Deadlines**: Rolling.

**Notes**: You must apply for and receive certification from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment WOTC Unit, verifying that any new hire is a member of a WOTC target group before you can claim WOTC on the federal tax return. This must be done within 28 days of the new hire’s start date.

**Key Terms**: State Department, Funding, Description, Deadlines, Notes.

**Colorado First and Existing Industry Grants**

**Colorado First program** assists with training funds for net new hires. The **Existing Industry program** focuses on providing assistance to established Colorado companies in order to remain competitive within their industry, adapt to new technology, and prevent layoffs. Companies must contribute a minimum of 40% (cash or in-kind) to the total costs of grant-funded training.

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The Rural Jump-Start Zone program provides specific tax relief to New Businesses and New Hires of these businesses that are located in certain economically distressed areas of rural Colorado and align with local or regional state higher education institutions in order to promote economic development in these areas. This program is based on Senate Bill 15-282, and codified under Colorado Revised Statutes 39-30.5-101. This program is administered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC), in conjunction with other government entities.

Per the Rural Jump-Start statute, applicant companies cannot participate in the Rural Jump-Start program if they compete with existing Colorado companies.

The purpose of the Advanced Industry Early Stage Capital and Retention Grant Program is to fund companies using technologies developed in proof of concept grants and other early stage start-ups that have created viable products, meet a market need, and can be created or manufactured in Colorado and exported globally. The Advanced Industries include aerospace, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, electronics, energy, infrastructure engineering, and technology and information. The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade will administer the program with support of Colorado Advanced Industry trade associations and the state’s Economic Development Commission.

The maximum amount of funding for applications is $250,000 Rolling

This grant used funding to accelerate commercialization and innovation of advanced industry products and services by building capacity and workforce for the advanced industries ecosystem. The Advanced Industry Collaborative Infrastructure Funding Grant provides State funding to collaborative projects that will have a broad industry-wide impact across one or more of Colorado’s Advanced Industries. The range of possible projects is broad, but each project should have a well defined scope and objectives.

Projects meeting the eligibility requirements will be eligible to receive up to $500,000 in grant funding. The minimum size of a grant award is $50,000.

The application for this grant is open twice a year in the spring and fall.

The Advanced Industries (AI) Export Grant is a Colorado financial assistance program for aspiring and current Colorado exporters administered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). The grant program supports small and medium-sized business through funds to offset international business development and marketing costs. The grant is funded by the Colorado Advanced Industries Acceleration Program.

Grants are capped at $15,000 per business to reimburse for costs associated with projects, activities or services. Approved applicants pay for the project up front, and then submit proof of payment to be reimbursed 50% of the approved expenses.

Funding is available through June 2019. Grant program applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funding runs out.

A financial assistance program for aspiring and current Colorado exporters entering into a new international market. This program supports small and medium-sized business through grant funds to offset international business development and marketing costs.

Applicants are required to submit a market research report explaining their decision to enter or expand into the proposed market. A panel will review all submitted applications. Please allow 2-3 weeks from submission date to receive notification of funding. Grant awardees will receive a detailed commitment letter from OEDIT indicating the agreed upon export development project or activities, timing and breakout of approved expenses in US Dollars.