

MoExcels Request for Proposals

FY 2026

Overview

The University of Missouri System requests MoExcels proposals for the FY 2026 funding cycle. Overseen by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, “MoExcels funding facilitates development and expansion of employer-driven education and training programs and initiatives to substantially increase educational attainment,” ([link](#)).

The UM System and the four universities have collectively received nearly \$15 million in additional state support from MoExcels since FY 2022 to support faculty development, teacher preparation, nursing education, clinical service engineering, student success initiatives, geospatial workforce development, adult learner engagement, behavioral health practice-based learning, laboratory development, and more.

Please review the timeline and guidelines below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steven Chaffin, Academic Affairs Program Director, at schaffin@umsystem.edu.

Timeline

December 2023	Internal RFP released to provosts and deans for consideration.
January-March 2024	Initial intent-to-submit meetings with UM Academic Affairs and UM Government Relations.
May 3, 2024	Deadline to submit first full draft of proposals to UM Academic Affairs for initial review.
May 2024	Official state RFP released by the state. UM Academic Affairs will review for changes from last year.
May-June 2024	UM System review of proposals and final submission decisions made.
Mid-June 2024	State deadline to submit requests and rationale for other expenses outside of defined allowable activities.
Early July 2024	Final state submission deadline. UM Academic Affairs submits final proposals to the state.

Spring/Summer 2025	Final funding decisions made by state legislature and Governor's Office.
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Guidelines

1. **Familiarize yourself with the program.** Begin by reviewing last year's [Request for Proposals](#) and [Scoring Rubric](#). These generally change little from year-to-year and provide a good introduction and initial source of questions and ideas.
2. **Develop an initial project idea.** Projects should be closely aligned with the core priorities and initiatives of the proposing university and/or proposing unit. Further, projects should clearly and directly address a current or projected workforce need and a clear plan to meet that need. Academic Affairs can assist in conducting market research by request. It should be easy to explain the essence of the proposal to someone without expertise or prior knowledge in the area. 3-4 external letters of support are recommended.
3. **Develop an initial outline of the project budget.**
 - a. *State Request:* Proposals should request between \$1-2 million in state appropriations. The state provides guidelines on what expenses are allowable, with an emphasis on one-time expenditures. While there is a process for requesting permission to include other expenses, this is generally not recommended and such requests should be discussed early in the process.
 - b. *Match:* A 100% institutional match is strongly recommended. It is the responsibility of the proposing unit to determine the source of the match. While match funds do not have to be in-hand, the match should be firmly committed by the time of submission to the state. Matching funds may be expended the prior fiscal year, but this is not always advisable. Matching funds should also adhere to allowable activities unless permission is granted to include other expenses.
 - c. If funded, proposals should be ready to spend quickly and provide a clear, realistic implementation plan.

4. **Schedule a meeting with Academic Affairs and Government Relations** no later than March 2024 to discuss initial proposal ideas and questions about the process. Academic Affairs and Government Relations will provide initial feedback regarding whether the proposal is likely to be competitive and guidance on next steps.