

# Opportunity Now Colorado



**COLORADO**  
Office of Economic Development  
& International Trade

## Program Overview

*HB22-1350 grant program funded through the Colorado  
Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)*

# Program Overview & Goals

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**Opportunity Now Colorado is the HB22-1350 grant program funded through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT).**

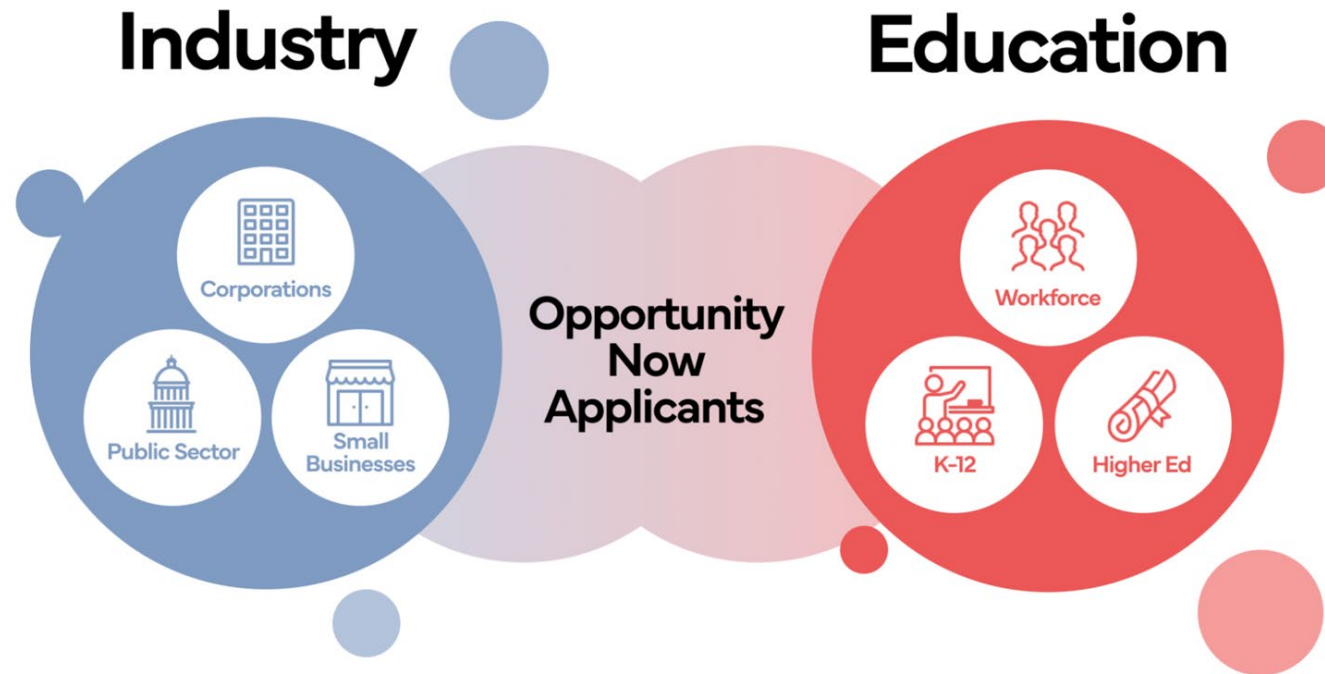
The goals of the \$85M program are to:

- 1. Meet today's regional workforce development needs.** Opportunity Now seeks innovative solutions to support Colorado's diverse economy and the workforce needs of Colorado's regional economies.
- 2. Incent regional connections between education systems and employers so workers can put their skills to use.** Opportunity Now incentivizes partnerships between employers and education entities, including K-12 and higher education institutions, to meet industry needs and create employment opportunities for Coloradans.
- 3. Provide more opportunities for regional learners and earners to be more economically mobile.** Opportunity Now supports Coloradans in earning a living wage in an in-demand, high-skill, high-wage occupation.



# Program Overview & Goals

To continue Colorado's recovery, we must modernize how our education and training partners support developing skills that are important to workers and to business. Opportunity Now catalyzes regional industry and education collaboration to unlock economic mobility for Coloradans.



# Award Values: Grant Sizing



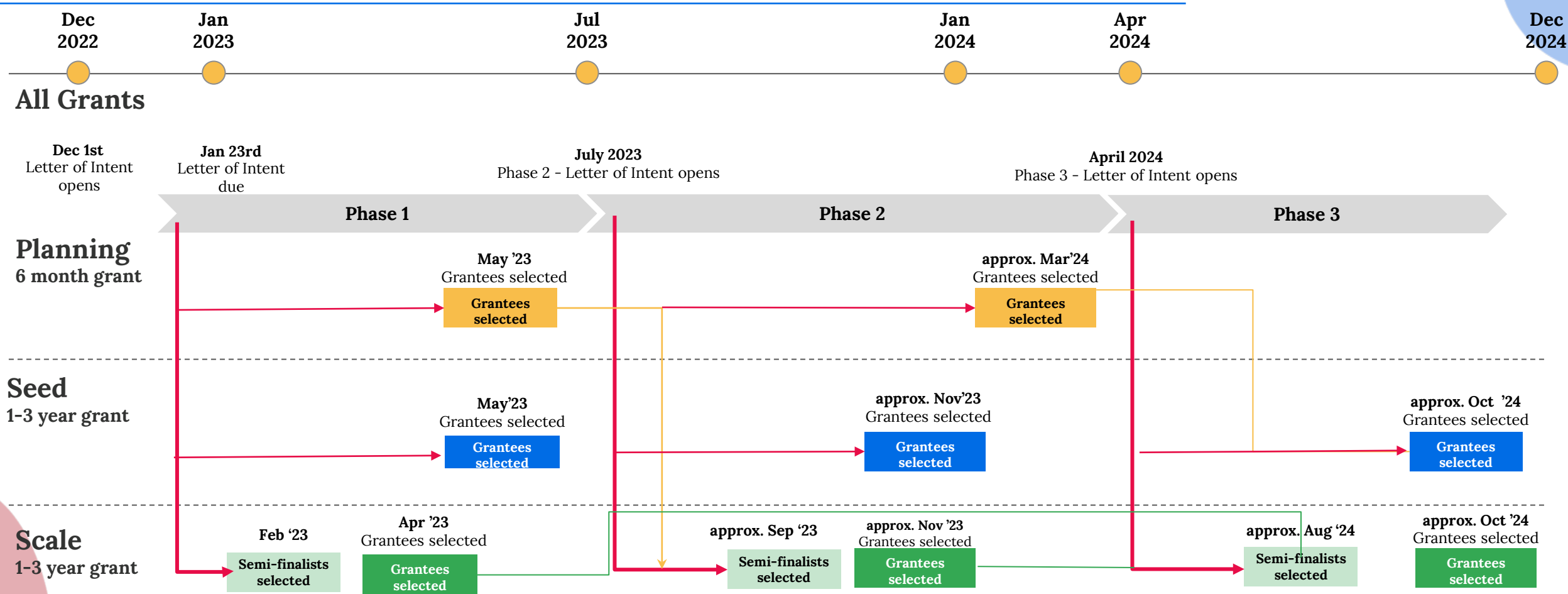
Grant	Purpose	Initial grant available	Initial grant term	Max available
<b>Planning</b>	Provide an onramp to Scale and Seed tracks for organizations to support planning, community and employer research, and partnership development in the research or initial development phase of a program	Less than \$50k	3-6 months	\$49.9k
<b>Seed</b>	Spur innovation in education to employment and workforce development by creating new partnerships and solutions	Indicatively \$500k - \$1M	1-3 years	No limit, indicatively up to \$2M total
<b>Scale</b>	Scale evidence-based practices in education and workforce development that meet employer needs and increase economic mobility	\$1M+	1-3 years	No limit, indicatively up to \$12M

**Based on the submitted LOI, eligible applicants will then be invited to apply to a Planning, Seed, or Scale grant. Grantees may be eligible to receive grants at various levels throughout each phase of the grant administration window.**

*\*Opportunities for additional awards will be made available in 2023 and 2024.*



# Program Timeline



# Application Process

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## 1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

The LOI is the initial application that all interested grantees must complete. This process should take applicants 3 to 5 hours in total to complete, requiring around 2-4 pages of written information (700-1000 words in total). The LOI questions and application will be completed through the Submittable platform.

## 2. Post-Letter of Intent

All Lead applicants must complete the LOI to be eligible for Opportunity Now funding. Based on the eligibility of the LOI, applicants may be invited to the RFA to apply for Seed, Scale or Planning grants. However, each Lead Applicant will only be asked to complete LOI once throughout each round. For additional detail on the application process see [opportunitynow.co/about](https://opportunitynow.co/about).

## 3. Request for Application (RFA)

The RFA follows the LOI, during this stage eligible applications will be invited to apply to Scale, Seed or Planning grants. The RFA will ask for information regarding your proposed solution, target audience, industries addressed, and desired outcomes. The RFA will be shared with advancing phase 1 applicants in March 2023.



# Program Eligibility

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**The primary objective of Opportunity Now Colorado is to create job matching and placements for Coloradans.** Collaboration is a key component to creating intentional pathways between education systems and employment.

- For each grant, **the partnership must include at least one industry partner and at least one educational entity.** Education entities may be K-12 school districts, institutions of higher education, community colleges, or training providers
- For grantees who apply in partnership with other organizations, **a single legal entity must have the legal responsibility, authority for, and control of the use of any grants funds** and be responsible for the reporting on any grant funds, and must be able to exercise in fact and law direction, control, and supervision of the proposed project and the grant funds (known as Lead Applicant)
- Organizations can submit only 1 application as Lead, but can be a partner on multiple applications





# Important Dates

Date	Grant Track: Scale	Grant Tracks: Seed and Planning
December 1, 2022	<b>Letter of Intent</b> application is live on <a href="https://opportunitynow.co">opportunitynow.co</a>	
January 23, 2023	<b>Letters of Intent</b> are due no later than 11:59pm MDT	
February 17, 2023	Organizations will be advanced upon a competitive review and invited to respond to a formal <b>Request for Application</b>	
March 3, 2023		Organizations will be advanced upon a competitive review and invited to respond to a formal <b>Request for Application</b>
April 2, 2023	<b>Final Application</b> due no later than 11:59pm MDT	
April 16, 2023		<b>Final Application</b> due no later than 11:59pm MDT
April 28, 2023	<b>Successful Scale applicants</b> will be notified that they have been awarded	
May 19, 2023		<b>Successful Seed and Planning</b> applicants will be notified that they have been awarded
June 1-30, 2023	Grants are disbursed pending completion of due diligence	



# Events & Support

For more information and support, refer to the following:

- Apply at <http://apply.opportunitynow.co/>
- Visit [opportunitynow.co](http://opportunitynow.co)
  - Sign up for the mailing list
  - **Submit an inquiry form**
  - Access a calendar of events, including webinars and information sessions
  - Access a repository of resource videos, recordings, and learnings
- Call 833-721-0206

