# University of Maine System Request for Pre-proposals

## Support for Program Innovation and Development

*2018-2019 Program Innovation Fund*

## Application Guidelines

1. **PURPOSE**

The UMS Program Innovation Fund was developed to incentivize and support innovative academic collaborations that expand opportunities and address regional and state needs while attracting and retaining students. Although educational attainment and preparation for the workforce are national conversations, the call to higher education to address the issue in Maine has been especially acute given the state’s demographic challenges, educational gaps, and labor needs. The message is clear from state legislators and the UMS Board of Trustees that Maine’s public universities are expected to be active participants in meeting the economic and workforce needs of the state. We are well positioned to expand our contribution through adult attainment and completion initiatives that align with workforce development and are a vital counterpart to our Early College efforts.

There is also an imperative to provide credentials of value to adult learners who seek to achieve or retain relevance in the workforce. This can feel like a new mission for our universities, but it is work our campuses and the system have already been doing. We have partnered with the Lumina Foundation-supported MaineSpark Adult Promise effort to raise the percentage of Maine people holding a credential of value to 60% by 2025. We are working with state colleagues on the Hope legislation that will support 500 Maine adults toward their completion goals. We are also partnering on the Credential Engine initiative to identify credentials of value across the system for the national registry. This is all in addition to our excellent degree programs and related efforts. In other words, we are active partners in addressing the workforce needs of the state and the attainment goals of its people; the Program Innovation Fund (PIF) can help support these objectives.

There is, however, some urgency to this work, hence the addition of feasibility and expediency to this year’s PIF criteria. While proposals must be multi-campus collaborations, they must also be nimble in their approach in order to be developed, implemented, and scaled quickly.

Finally, all proposals must include an assessment plan for project accountability.

**With the above understanding, the focus for the 2018-2019 PIF is to support faculty-driven, programmatic proposals to address the challenge of adult attainment through workforce readiness and credentials that lead to employment.**

The Chief Academic Officers Council (CAOC) is therefore seeking proposals for collaborative programs that do the following:

* + expand adult attainment
	+ respond to demonstrated workforce need
	+ provide credentials that employers are seeking (credentials of value)
	+ enhance enrollment growth
	+ offer expediency

# PRE-PROPOSAL PROCESS

The purpose of the pre-proposal is to allow the CAOC to offer guidance and gauge interest in a proposed idea prior to faculty investing time in developing a full proposal.

1. Pre-proposal Submission Date: **Sunday, October 21, 2018**
2. Maximum length – 2 pages, including short submission form
3. Required elements:
	* Submission form with title and approximate funding request
	* Description of programmatic initiative (max. 500 words)
	* Applicability to state workforce needs, adult attainment, and credentials of value (max. 250 words)
	* Address expediency, collaboration, assessment, and the potential for enrollment growth (max. 250 words)

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# Pre-Proposal Form

# UMS Program Innovation Fund

#  Application Form

1. Proposed Program Title

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1. Anticipated Funding Request
2. Applicant Name

*Campus Address*

*Contact Number*

*Email*

1. Project Description (maximum of 500 words):
	* Address project applicability to state workforce needs, adult attainment, and credentials of value (maximum of 250 words)
	* Address expediency, collaboration, assessment, and the potential for enrollment growth (maximum of 250 words)