



## Postsecondary Employment Outcomes Coalition

### 2025-26 Request for Proposals to Fund Grants for Projects Using PSEO Data

#### Overview and Background

The [Postsecondary Employment Outcomes \(PSEO\) Coalition](#) generates, analyzes, and shares employment data and trends that assist with demonstrating the value of higher education and helping constituents make data-informed observations about student outcomes. The data are publicly available through a [dashboard](#) and [downloadable dataset](#) on the U.S. Census Bureau's website. PSEO data governance ensures that definitions, methodology, and limitations are clearly reviewable by researchers. To protect privacy, all publicly available data are presented in the aggregate.

The data consist of both earnings outcomes and employment flows for recent graduates of partner colleges and universities for the past 20+ years. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs held by the U.S. Census Bureau. Only graduates who earn at least the annual equivalent of full-time work at the prevailing federal minimum wage and work three or more quarters in a calendar year are included.

Earnings outcomes for graduates from a particular institution are available by degree field, degree level, and graduation cohort. The 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles of earnings are released for one, five, and 10 years after graduation. Employment flows provide counts of graduates from a particular institution to the geographic location and industry of their main employer. Flows are available by degree field, degree level, and graduation cohort and are also released for one, five, and 10 years after graduation. Data are refreshed annually, with the most recent data available for a cohort of graduates from 2019-2021.

The PSEO Coalition seeks proposals for projects that utilize the diverse array of PSEO data. Projects should be of an applied research nature and address a wide variety of topics. Successful proposals might include projects that explore employment outcomes, provide instruction and examples for ways to use the PSEO data, or provide vital information to decision-makers at institutions, systems, states, or other entities to make informed decisions. The PSEO Coalition is especially interested in proposals that demonstrate the practical utility of the data and tools to assist higher education leadership in improving institutional outcomes and strategic planning.

## Project Requirements

PSEO Coalition grant projects must utilize PSEO data (either the comprehensive data set or some subset of those data). Projects need not be original for the purposes of the grants nor use exclusively PSEO data. Successful proposals will be those that show the usefulness of PSEO data, promote a data-informed culture among consumers of data and information, and demonstrate the importance of better understanding of education and employment outcomes. Qualitative-focused projects are also of interest as long as they are informed by and can demonstrate how they relate to the PSEO data and tools.

The projects will address areas of interest to audiences who are:

- Data collectors and users (i.e., institutional researchers, career services leadership, alumni/advancement officers, accreditation liaisons, data managers, research managers, faculty, staff, etc.);
- Policy and decision makers interested in postsecondary employment outcomes,
- Postsecondary institutions; and/or
- Students, employers, employees, and other consumers of postsecondary education and training.

Some examples of potential projects for the grants include:

- Utilization of PSEO data to dispel myths associated with education and employment data. For example, using the data to explore the employment outcomes of certain majors and comparing those with “common knowledge”.
- Use of the national PSEO data to demonstrate how state systems and institutions could create templates and standard data reports to inform decision makers.
- Research questions that address geographic trends in employment. Such questions could include reciprocity agreements and how they impact certain careers, migration trends, particularly as they relate to certain majors and careers, and regional trends in employment outcomes.
- Qualitative research focused on how institutional ecosystems might leverage the PSEO tools and data to assist with academic program review, creation of new academic programs, enhancing student and career services, and/or fulfilling regional and academic-specific accreditation requirements.
- Value of different degree pathways and their employment outcomes.

## Budget

Five \$15,000 grants will be awarded. The first half of the payment will be processed after submission of the first draft. Final payment will be made upon submission of the final product. Please note that researchers must be based in the United States to be eligible for grant funding.

## Timeline

Proposal submission deadline	Tuesday, January 20, 2026, by 5 PM PST
Awardee notification	Monday, February 9, 2026
First draft due to Research Manager	Monday, April 27, 2026
Comments on first draft back from Research Manager	Friday, May 22, 2026
Final draft due to Research Manager	Friday, June 12, 2026

## Proposal Requirements

Proposals must be submitted through the [online application form](#) and must include:

- **Project overview:** Provide an overall description of the project that outlines the purpose, the audience for which it is intended, and the specific questions or topics that will be addressed. If the proposed project is part of a larger project or initiative, a description of that larger project should be included. Include how this project will also support evidence-based practices to improve institutional, system, or statewide higher education practices.
- **Description of data:** Describe in some detail the data you plan to use from the PSEO data set and any additional data that will be used and why. If non-PSEO data will be included in the project, the proposal should include a description of the need for its inclusion as well as steps taken to ensure the validity and reliability of these secondary data. Successful projects are also expected to document and integrate data practices that promote transparency and methodological integrity.
- **Project outline:** Include an outline of the final submission.
- **Applicant bio:** Provide a brief bio for the applicant (and any other person working on the project). Be sure to include any prior experience or research that may be relevant to your project.

Selected projects will be showcased as part of the suite of PSEO Coalition research and publications online in the [PSEO Coalition Resource Library](#). Final projects will be co-branded with the PSEO Coalition.

Proposals for grants will be accepted through Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 5 PM PST. The application form can be found [here](#). All questions should be sent to Jason F. Simon, Ph.D., PSEO Research Manager, at [research@pseocoalition.org](mailto:research@pseocoalition.org).