In response to projected shortages in aircraft pilots, the U.S. Congress gave the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authority to establish an Aviation Workforce Development Grant Program in Section 625 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023. The goal of this program is to support education and development of the aircraft pilots workforce.

ELLIGIBLE PROJECTS:
Projects in one or both of these categories will be eligible for award:

• Projects that create and deliver curriculum designed to provide high school students with meaningful aviation education that is designed to prepare the students to become aircraft pilots, aerospace engineers, or unmanned aircraft systems operators
• Projects that support the professional development of teachers using the above curriculum

Note: The proposed project may utilize an applicant’s existing curriculum as well, provided that such curriculum is consistent with the eligibility requirements listed here.

ELLIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

• Air carriers (as defined in 49 USC 40102) or labor organizations representing aircraft pilots
• Flight schools that provide flight training (14 CFR part 61) or hold a pilot school certificate (14 CFR part 141)
• Accredited higher education institutions (20 U.S.C. 1001), or secondary schools or high schools (20 U.S.C. 7801)
• State or local governmental entities
• Organizations representing aircraft users, aircraft owners, or aircraft pilots

FUNDING:
Since 2020, Congress has appropriated $5 million annually for this program. The FAA may award between $25,000 and $500,000 (the ceiling established by legislation) for any one grant in any one fiscal year.

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