

# @Scale: Project Characteristics

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## **Best Practices**

@Scale projects display best practices that have been well established in education and workforce development or training. The program design of these projects is grounded in research and has a strong theory of change that has resulted in past successes.

## **Well Established**

@Scale does not support projects that are in their infancy phases though many other funding streams in the state and federal agencies do support new projects.

## **Ready to and designed for scale: Growth or replication**

@Scale projects have the infrastructure to either provide programming to a much larger group of students, educators, or workforce developers in the same district or can replicate their program to another large group of similar students, educators, or workforce developers in a different region of the Commonwealth.

## **Sustainable**

@Scale is rooted in the idea of supporting projects that have a proven track record and can scale to other regions or populations. To do this, an @Scale project must demonstrate its ability to continue to succeed in areas it currently supports in absence of @Scale funding.

## **Ability to attract external resources**

While an @Scale project may exhibit most of the qualities in this list, it also needs to exhibit demand for its services. If it is a good idea in concept but no one wants to implement its program or services, then it would not fit the @Scale model.

## **Benefits students, educators, and/or workforce**

Projects can be a good idea in concept but may not translate to having the intended impact on students, educators, or workforce in ways that directly support the five goals of the STEM Plan.

## **Clear potential for desired outcomes**

@Scale projects are able to demonstrate that they have a proven track record of success over a period of time that is supported by data.

## **Commitment to evaluation**

@Scale is funded through state monies and need to clearly demonstrate impact. This effort to continually learn from project implementation and to documents its impact is necessary for any project

to receive state funds. @Scale projects are strongly encouraged to contract with an external evaluator with a credible reputation in STEM education evaluation to carry out this work.

### **Has necessary partnerships**

Programs need to demonstrate that relationships exist between the @Scale projects, the organizations that receive programming, and external funding partners. This partnership indicates there is demand for the programming, valued by funders, and a pathway to sustainability.

### **Givens:**

#### **Responsible Grantee**

In order to receive @Scale funding, grant recipients must comply with funding responsibilities, including reporting, willingness to coordinate site visits, availability for interviews, and use funds appropriately.

#### **Meets standards and state policies**

@Scale programs need to be in compliance with existing state standards and policies, including the Department of Higher Education and its sister agencies. Projects that violate any policies, written or implied, are not eligible for consideration.