



Grant Requirements: Open Licensing and Intellectual Property

Why does the Department of Labor require open licensing?

The Department of Labor's competitive grant awards represent investments in the next generation of open educational resources (OER) by requiring that DOL-funded intellectual property developed under competitively-awarded grant programs, including digital content, be openly licensed for free use, adaptation, and improvement by others. Through access to high-quality OER produced by grantees, American workers are better able to obtain affordable, high-quality training that will lead to careers in high-wage industries. Grantees build upon and contribute to the body of available OER, and continue to create technology-driven innovations in career training and education by openly licensing all grant-funded work under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license, pursuant to [2 CFR 2900.13 – Intangible Property](#). For more information on the types of grant-funded products required to be openly licensed, please refer to your program's Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), terms and conditions of your grant, and program-specific policy resources.

What is the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) License?

When you affix the CC BY license to your grant-funded products, you are stating that the public may download, copy, and redistribute the material in any medium or format. Additionally, the public may remix, transform, and build on the material for any purpose, even commercially. However, anyone who uses your products must credit the original author of the work. For more details of the rights CC BY entails, see [full legal text of the license](#).

How do I mark my products with the CC BY License?

The process for licensing a product as CC BY is straightforward: put the CC BY icon along with copyright text (see below) on the product where it will be visible, and post the material to a public platform (e.g., a website) where it can be accessed by the public. Grantees can use the following text and symbol to mark their products with the CC BY license:



"[Title of product]" by [Name of author], [Name of Project], [Name of Organization] is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#).

Separate from and additional to the CC BY license requirement, the Department of Labor may require that grantees affix disclaimer text, stating that the products were funded by the Department of Labor. Grantees should refer to their Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the required disclaimer text, and guidance on whether this text is required.

How can I give the public access to my openly-licensed products?

As part of the requirement to publicly license grant-funded products, grantees must post their products (with the CC BY license affixed) to a public distribution platform. This platform may be a grantee's own webpage, or grantees may post products to other publicly-accessible sites. Creative Commons lists [several such distribution platforms](#) as examples, among many other platforms available online.

For further information on applying the CC BY license, and publicly posting your products, please consult the following resources:

- **Description of CC BY license:**
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>
- **Open Attribution License Builder:**
<http://www.openwa.org/open-attrib-builder/>
- **Creative Commons FAQ:**
<https://creativecommons.org/faq/>
- **Instructions for Marking Work with Creative Commons License:**
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