

Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Informational Webinar
February 7, 2018, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Funding and Application Submission Details

- The Governor's budget proposes another round of awards for next year.
- For this year's competition, a total of \$20 million is available.
- Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on 3/19/18.
- Applicant interviews (tentative) will occur on April 9-12, so we need to make sure that an appropriate team is available to travel.
- The college must identify an Application Coordinator, whom the funder will contact directly with questions about the application's content.
- The CEO must sign a letter of assurance, using the provided template.
- The abstract summary should be no more than 250 words.
- Narrative responses to the required questions should be no more than 500 words each.
- The funder is looking for clarity, brevity, and thoughtful case making. Less is more.
- The online application allows the attachment of a single PDF document for each question.

Overview of the Program's Purpose and Target Population

- The purpose of the program is to scale an already proven innovation that is sustainable at the college and is scalable regionally or throughout the state.
- The innovation should have proven results over time.
- The intent is to improve student success among populations underrepresented in higher education, such as the following populations:
 - Low-income students,
 - Students from underrepresented schools and neighborhoods,
 - First-generation college students,
 - Students who are current or former foster youth, and
 - Students with disabilities.
- Other targeted populations may include:
 - Students who are current or former members of the Armed Forces,
 - Workers displaced from the workforce and adults who are underemployed, and
 - Incarcerated adults in prisons and jails, including formerly incarcerated adults.

Questions Asked in the Application

1. From the perspective of the student population referred to in the introduction, what was the problem your innovation helped to address on your campus, college, or district?
2. Briefly describe the practice or policy that your campus, college, or district need to change. Precisely describe the innovation and how it addressed the problem outlined in Question 1.
3. How did your campus, college, or district scale, or begin to scale, this innovation?
4. Explain in detail the specific barriers that were addressed to begin scaling the innovation across the campus, college or district.
5. Explain how your campus, college, or district will collaborate with the Chancellor's Office to disseminate this innovation throughout the state to benefit other colleges seeking to solve a student success issue.

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Criteria for a Strong Response

1. A strong response to Question 1 will define the problem using data that clearly delineates the student population and the disproportionate impact on student success. (5 points)
2. A strong response to Question 2 will demonstrate how this innovation is consistent with the Vision for Success. (5 points)
3. A strong response to Question 3 will include data demonstrating the impact of the innovation on a larger number of students over time. The funder will give preference to innovations that have been scaled campus-, college-, or district-wide and benefitted the student populations noted in the Introduction. (10 points)
4. A strong response to Question 4 will include a discussion of what resources, programs, staffing or reporting needed to be integrated or braided to achieve the desired changes. This response should give the readers a clear understanding of the experience of change at your campus or district. (20 points)
5. A strong response to Question 5 will include broad dissemination strategies that are integrated with current practices, tools and mechanisms to support professional development in the California Community Colleges. This plan will identify activities, responsible individuals, timelines and *estimated costs*. *Although a detailed budget is not required, a thoughtful estimate of the costs to scale this innovation will contribute to a strong application.* (20 points)
6. Is this a practice that, with the support of the Chancellor's Office, could be replicated to other sites across the region or state? (20 points)
7. Does the application respond to the following state priorities (20 points):
 - Innovation addressed needs of a student population highlighted in Introduction,
 - Scaling in progress or complete at local site is significant in numbers of students affected,
 - Scaling of innovation appears to be sustainable,
 - Innovation includes new uses of technology for student success,
 - College or district has partnered with other entities,
 - Innovation clearly aligns to Vision for Success.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

- A college/district may apply for more than one award, but it is doubtful that the funder will award more than one grant to a single college/district.
- Previous *Innovation* awardees may apply.
- The awards will be between \$1 million and \$4 million.
- The college's capacity and drive to disseminate the innovation should guide the dissemination plan. However, the program's intent is to support student populations most in need across the system (underrepresented in higher education).
- Applicants should consider existing tools, resources, and practices when developing a plan for dissemination.
- The funder will determine reporting requirements after they announce the grant recipients and awardees finalize their budgets/work plans.

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More Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

- The application does not require a budget, but the applicant should provide a fair estimate of cost to continue scaling at the college level (and among partners, if applicable) and to disseminate the innovation.
- Applicants should plan to work with the Chancellor's Office on dissemination, including administrators/faculty who are directly involved in the innovation's implementation. Applicants should include travel in their cost estimates, as well as the cost of partners (if applicable) to participate with the college on the scaling/dissemination of the innovation.
- The plan should include continued scaling AND dissemination activities.
- The funder encourages using existing and futures sources of funding (e.g., Guided Pathways) to implement innovations.
- The funder would accept a YouTube link to a video that spotlights the innovation in lieu of the optional supplementary PDF document for each of the questions. Applicants should only include attachments that are vital to the purpose of the application. Less is more.
- Grants will need to end no later than December 31, 2021. However, the intent is to make an impact quickly, both on student success and on dissemination to other colleges. Most projects will run for two to three years.
- The intent of the funding is to reach the largest number of students possible.
- Scaling of the innovation can be at a single college campus, across a district, or across a multi-college/university partnership that already exists. The applicant defines the innovation and the scope of the scaling efforts. In addition to scaling, the applicant should include a plan to disseminate regionally or across the state.
- If a particular innovation includes multiple colleges coordinating a practice, scaling could mean serving other populations with the same practice, engaging other departments within those colleges, etc. Dissemination of the practice would include reaching colleges not already involved.
- Applicants should focus on the specific populations listed as underrepresented in higher education, but other students may be benefit as well.
- The funder does not want to fund new strategies; the funder will only consider proven strategies. However, the applicant may scale these proven strategies to other departments or other populations.
- Applicants should be thoughtful in estimating the cost of scaling the innovation to the targeted number of students and then disseminating regionally or statewide. If selected for an award, the funder will determine an appropriate award amount, and the college will submit a detailed budget.