
Innovation Fund Grants 101

Innovation Fund Technical Assistance Day
August 13 and 14, 2014



Breakout Session Agenda

- Overview of Innovation Fund Application
- Demonstration of the Online Application Site
- Innovation Fund Do's and Don'ts
- Innovation Fund Expectations
- Questions?

Innovation Fund Application: Submission Process

- Online application site:
<http://www.innovationfund.fluidreview.com>
- **August 22 to September 12:** Create an account and submit the *Intent to Apply Form*
- Once GOSA has approved your *Intent to Apply Form*, you can access the application through your online account
- **October 3:** Planning Grants Due
- **October 27:** Implementation and Scaling Grants Due
- **December 15:** Awards Announced

Innovation Fund Application: Structure

Section	Number of Application Questions	Required Documents	Possible Points
Program Overview	9	n/a	30 points
Need for the Program	1	n/a	5 points
Similar Programs	1	n/a	5 points
Partnership Overview	2	Letters of Commitment	15 points
Capacity to Implement the Program	2	Resumes of Key Personnel	15 points
Scope of Work	1	Innovation Fund Grant Scope of Work	15 points
Budget	1	Innovation Fund Grant Budget Template	15 points

Innovation Fund Application: Program Overview

- Provides a general overview of your program, including:
 - Description of the program,
 - The anticipated population,
 - How your program aligns with one or more of the priority areas

For **Planning Grants**

- Partnership Overview

For **Implementation and Scaling Grants**

- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Oriented and Time-Bound) goals and outcomes
- Evaluation plan

Innovation Fund Application: SMART Goals, Outcomes and Evaluation Plan

Implementation and Scaling Grants

- Include no more than six SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Oriented, and Time-Bound) goals and outcomes, including three academic outcomes
 - Use the [Grant Goals and Outcomes](#) chart to guide your answers to this section
- Be sure to base your intended outcomes off of baseline data
- All organizations awarded funds must contract with an external evaluator

Innovation Fund Application: Need for the Program

- Discuss why you need to plan, implement or scale your program
- Provide data to support the need
 - *Ex: Over the past three years, Peachtree County Schools had a graduation rate of 62%, 65%, and 64%, respectively. Our applied learning program will target students at-risk for dropping out of high school – engaging them in STEM-focused, rigorous coursework and internships.*

Innovation Fund Application: Similar Programs

For Implementation Grants

- Discuss programs that are similar to yours (serve a similar population, address a similar priority area, etc.)
- Discuss what you can learn or adapt from these programs

Innovation Fund Application: Evidence of Success

For Scaling Grants

- Provide evidence that the program you would like to scale has generated positive student achievement or teacher and leader effectiveness outcomes
 - **Evidence must include quantitative data**, but can include qualitative data as well
- Provide evidence that, when scaled, the program will yield similar results
 - *Ex: Our program will serve the same type of students as our replication partner – overage 8th grade students who are at risk for dropping out of school during or after 9th grade.*

Innovation Fund Application: Partnership Overview

For Implementation and Scaling Grants

- Discuss any partners that will help you implement or scale your program
- Discuss your replication partner, if appropriate (scaling grants only)
- Upload *letters of commitment* from all partners listed, as well as your governing body, specifying:
 - The partner's commitment to the project
 - The roles and responsibilities of the partner

Innovation Fund Application: Capacity to Plan, Implement or Scale the Program

- Address that your grant lead(s), and any other key personnel have the capacity and time to fulfill the grant objectives
- Upload *Resumes of Key Personnel*
- For **Implementation and Scaling Grants**
 - Demonstrate that your organization has managed grants of a similar size or scope

Innovation Fund Application: Scope of Work

- **Planning Grant Applicants** will upload the *Planning Grant Process Timeline*
- **Implementation and Scaling Grant Applicants** will upload the *Innovation Fund Scope of Work*
- This section must demonstrate that you have an intentional and feasible plan for reaching your grant objectives

Innovation Fund Application: Budget

- **Planning Grant Applicants** will upload the *Planning Grant Budget Template*
- **Implementation and Scaling Grant Applicants** will upload the *Innovation Fund Budget Template*
- All expenses must be:
 - Allocable
 - Allowable
 - Reasonable
- Describe the rationale for your expenditures

Innovation Fund Application: Online Application Site

<http://www.innovationfund.fluidreview.com>

Innovation Fund Application: Do's and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
✓ Make sure you apply for the right type of grant.	✗ Apply for an implementation or scaling grant if you are not ready to do so.
✓ Ensure all stakeholders, partners, and your governing body are supportive of the grant.	✗ Wait until the last minute to ask for letters of commitment from stakeholders, partners, and your governing body.
✓ Review the grant guidelines prior to completing your application.	✗ Try to complete the application without referring to the grant guidelines.
✓ Start your application early, and ask any questions well in advance of the deadline.	✗ Wait until the deadline to ask questions.
✓ Complete all required sections of the application.	✗ Skip sections of the application, or forget to upload required documents
✓ Have everyone who will be involved in the grant review the application.	✗ Wait until you submit the application to show others who will be involved in the grant work.

Innovation Fund Expectations

If you are awarded funds, GOSA will expect you to adhere to the following expectations:

- Make budget adjustments and complete additional paperwork, as needed,
- Submit quarterly expense and progress reports,
- Submit mid-year and end-of-year evaluation reports (implementation and scaling grants only),
- Arrange for GOSA to conduct site visits when asked, and
- Respond, in a timely manner, to emails and phone calls from GOSA.

Questions?

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