INNOVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can one Local Education Agency (LEA) apply for more than one grant?
Yes, LEAs can apply for more than one level of grant (planning, implementation, scaling) provided that you are not submitting a planning, implementation, and scaling grant for the same program. You may also apply for more than one of the same type of grant if your district has multiple programs aligned with one or more of the Innovation Fund priority areas. However; we encourage you to think strategically about which grants you submit as there is limited funding available. Submitting multiple grant applications does not necessarily increase your chances of receiving funding.

Can an individual school or charter school apply for a grant?
Individual schools and charter schools (conversion, start up, or commission) are eligible to submit a grant application provided that the district's superintendent or governing body submits a letter of commitment indicating that they support the grant proposal.

If I am a postsecondary institution, nonprofit organization or RESA can I apply for a grant?
This funding round is exclusively for LEAs/school districts. LEAs are encouraged to apply in partnership with postsecondary institutions, and nonprofit organizations to strengthen the quality of their grant application. However; LEAs must submit the grant application and, if awarded funds, serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

Can I partner with an organization(s) outside of the state?
Yes, you may partner with organizations outside of Georgia. However, all applications must be submitted by LEAs within Georgia.

How competitive is it to receive funding?
It is extremely competitive to receive funding. GOSA typically receives between 60 – 100 grant applications per round and awards only a few grants. To ensure your application is competitive, please be sure to review all appropriate grant guidelines, rubrics, and other technical assistance material prior to writing and submitting a grant application. These materials are available at GOSA's website (http://gosa.georgia.gov/innovation-fund-grant-opportunities-0) and in the Grant Application Toolbox (http://tinyurl.com/grantbox).

Can I apply for more or less than the grant award amounts listed on the website?
GOSA will only award grants that fall within the ranges listed on our website ($5,000 - $10,000 for planning grants, and $250,000 to $750,000 for implementation and scaling grants).

Can I view previously funded grant applications?
There are examples of previously-funded grant applications available in the Grant Application Toolbox (http://tinyurl.com/grantbox). Please note, however; that there have been a few changes to the application since last year's funding cycle. You can also read about the types of grants we funded during Race to the Top on GOSA's website (http://tinyurl.com/RT3rept).

How do I access the grant application?
To access the Innovation Fund Grant application, please visit https://innovationfund.fluidreview.com. If you have previously applied for an Innovation Fund grant you may log in using your existing username and password. If this is your first time applying for an Innovation Fund grant, you can create an account by clicking the "sign up" button underneath Need an Account? Once you have an account and have logged into the system, you can start the application by following these steps:

1. Click "Create New Submission" and then "Get Started" at the bottom of the screen.
2. Click on the task "Grant Application Selection."
3. Select the type of application you would like to complete (planning, application, scaling).
4. Click save and exit.
5. The application you selected should now appear on your screen. To start working on it, click start.
6. Once you complete the application, please click "Submit Your Application."
7. If you are submitting more than one grant application, repeat steps 1 – 6 to submit another application.

Does the application have word counts?
Yes, each application question has a word count maximum (typically between 500 and 1,000 words). The application site lists the world count maximum under each application question. However; please note that the word count maximums **are not** suggested lengths for each answer, and strong answers can be shorter than the maximum word count. **We encourage you to write clear and concise answers for each question.**

Can I submit additional data or charts as part of my application?
Yes, there is a task following the application where you can upload additional charts or data as needed. **However, please note that GOSA will only review additional information that is clearly referenced in your application narrative.**

Do I have to contract with an external evaluator? What do you mean by an external evaluator?
All organizations that receive an implementation or scaling grant must use a portion of their grant funds to contract with an external evaluator. An external evaluator is someone who is both completely outside of your organization and removed from the grant work.

How will GOSA review the grant applications?
Review teams composed of GOSA and Department of Education staff members and priority area experts that are familiar with the Innovation Fund work will review each application. Multiple reviewers will score each application using the appropriate scoring rubric. GOSA will then average each reviewer's score to determine your final score. The scoring rubrics are available at GOSA's website (http://gosa.georgia.gov/innovation-fund-grant-opportunities-0) and in the Grant Application Toolbox (http://tinyurl.com/grantbox).

If I receive a planning grant, does that mean I will receive an implementation grant the next round?
The goal of the Innovation Fund is to provide planning, implementation, and scaling grants to programs doing innovative work aligned with the Innovation Fund priority areas. The Innovation Fund plans to secure additional funding to provide more grants in the future. Planning grant applicants who use their grant funds to develop a strong and feasible plan will be well-positioned to apply for an implementation grant in later rounds.

If I am not awarded a grant, can GOSA provide feedback on my application?
GOSA will provide feedback to applicants when appropriate. However, given the competitive nature of this grant round, it is possible that even applicants with outstanding applications may not receive a grant award. Therefore, GOSA may not have specific feedback on strong applications.