

INNOVATIONMAKER3 FAQ'S

Q. Does this mean the state is seeking ONE fiscal agent (not multiple fiscal agents who would be awarded separate grants)?

A. Yes, this is correct. We are seeking one fiscal agent to oversee the processing and distribution of mini-grants and funds for the colleges who submitted a letter of intent.

Q. So we do not need to be a fiscal agent and we may apply for the mini-grants instead?

A. Yes, this is correct. This RFA is intended to identify one fiscal agent that will contract with sub-grantees (i.e., California Community Colleges) on a statewide basis in addition to the TAP (Technical Assistance Provider).

Q. While districts are the primary applicant, the RFA seems to indicate that colleges can be the 'host site' with the key talent, etc.?

A. Yes, this is correct. The district may apply for this funding opportunity and host the project staff and key talent on a community college within their district.

Q. So the mini-grant process will follow?

A. Yes, this is correct. The mini-grant process will follow once the fiscal agent is identified.

Q. Do we know what the allowable expenses and objectives will be for the mini-grants and when those will be released?

A. The RFA describes the scope of work in the objective section, which explains the anticipated expectations for the mini-grant recipients. There is additional information provided in Appendix C of the RFA regarding the allowable expenses.

Q. For the fiscal agent, it looks like they may be asked to serve as lead for the Community of Practice for funds other than this initial \$17M (RFA p. 6); is this the case?

A. This funding opportunity is intended to not only build and sustain the Maker Movement by providing catalytic grants to the colleges to start a Makerspace, but to also build up the work-based learning component based on the creation of internship opportunities and partnerships. The selected fiscal agent will be responsible for facilitating the Community of Practice platform and building the network along with the TAP. There may be additional funding opportunities in the future.

- Q. Is the TAP the same thing as the Project Director (on the contact page)?**
- A. *CLARIFICATION:*** *The Project Director listed on the contact page is the person responsible for conducting the daily operations of the grant on behalf of the selected fiscal agent. The Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) is the person that the district enters into a subcontract with to assist with the tier mini-grant planning process, to oversee the mini-grant application process leading to grant distribution, and to serve as the general lead in a community-of-practice of grantees engaged in InnovationMaker3 work and the STEM/STEAM workforce development efforts under other grants funded by the CCCC Workforce and Economic Development Division. Please refer to Appendix E for the Roles and Responsibilities for the Technical Assistance Provider.*
- Q. So all of these details only pertain to the workplan serving as the fiscal agent and TAP, not the RFAs for the upcoming mini-grants, correct?**
- A.** *Yes, this is correct. Once the fiscal agent has been identified there will be a process established to issue the mini-grants in which the colleges who submitted a letter of intent will be asked to submit a workplan.*
- Q. Are all four goals in the new metrics relevant to this funding?**
- A.** *Yes, all four goals in the new metrics are relevant to this funding opportunity. The 2016-2017 Common Metrics Description (Appendix G) would be beneficial for applicants to review prior to submitting their application. The RFA also outlines an evaluation structure.*
- Q. Will there be a way to apply as the TAP but not the fiscal agent? Or will the TAP necessarily be someone from the fiscal agent?**
- A.** *Yes, the TAP role will be open to apply. This process will be administered by the selected fiscal agent, but not necessarily come from the Fiscal Agent. However, the Fiscal Agent may already have a TAP identified.*
- Q. Can the college of the person selected to be the TAP apply for mini-grant funding? Is that a conflict of interest?**
- A.** *The college of the person selected to be the Technical Assistance Provider and/or the fiscal agent is not precluded from applying for mini-grant funding provided that the college adheres to the fiscal agent's established procurement procedures, roles and responsibilities are explicitly clarified, and a process for accountability is in existence.*

Q. Will the TAP be a full-time position or can this be a shared/split or less than full-time position?

A. This should be a full-time position as the workload will require the position to be 100 percent committed to the project.

Q. Do you have a sense of approximately when the mini-grants would be rolled out...maybe late summer?

A. The start date for the fiscal agent is July 19, 2016. Depending on the timeline and process established by the fiscal agent, we are anticipating that the mini-grants will be issued by late summer/early September.

Q. Will the fiscal agent be responsible for performing the audit of the overall project (i.e., having an on-site auditor)?

A. The selected fiscal agent is not required to staff an on-site auditor, however the fiscal agent is required to provide oversight of the grant to ensure it is operating in accordance with the RFA specifications and guidelines, and as such agrees that the Chancellor's Office, the Bureau of State Audits, any other appropriate state or federal oversight agency, or their designated representative(s), shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Grant Agreement. Grantee agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of three (3) years after final payment or until any audit findings have been resolved, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated. Please refer to Appendix A, Article II (Standard Legal Terms and Conditions) for additional information.