COMPLETE COLLEGE GEORGIA INNOVATION GRANTS • RFP • 2015-2016

OVERVIEW

The USG Complete College Georgia Innovation grants provide early stage funding and support for institutions to initiate and implement high-impact projects aligned with the goals of Complete College Georgia. The purpose of the Innovation grants is two-fold: to explore areas of promising practice and scale-up proven, successful practices.

This CCG Innovation Grant RFP will focus on improvements in STEM core courses leading to improved student learning and achievement.

Successful proposals will address at least one of the following prioritized areas:

NEW MODELS FOR LEARNING, INCLUDING:

- Undergraduate research experiences
- Competency-Based Education (including Prior Learning Assessment), the ability to award credit for demonstrated mastery of a topic
- Flipped classrooms, blended learning or other innovative delivery models
- New/adapted STEM courses specific to major
- Flexible pathways towards college completion that include online and in-person experiences
- Open Educational Resources (OERS) to reduce the costs of course materials for students

HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES, INCLUDING:

- STEM pathways and meta majors
- Structured scheduling for students (cohort classes)
- Supplemental Instruction
- Peer Mentoring Study Groups

Grant awards will be made in amounts up to $25,000. All USG institutions are eligible and encouraged to submit proposals.

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS

Funding is available for two categories of projects:

1. INCUBATE:

The projects in this category are in a "start up" phase and are focused on innovative practices that will have a high impact on student progress and completion in STEM courses and majors. While these projects are novel in implementation, they should demonstrate transformative potential. Evidence that the project has significant impact on college completion is essential.

2. REPLICATE:

The projects in this category leverage an existing high impact project by expanding the scope of the project to a new institution, subject area or other creative change in scope. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate that the initial project had success in increasing student achievement and completion. Projects can replicate either USG projects or recognized national best practices or projects. These projects should include an explanation of how the project is suitable for implementation at the institution. The proposal must include evidence that the proposing institution has connected with the institution/organization whose project will be replicated and has established a point of contact to assist in successful implementation.

The types of projects that will be considered for replication are those that have proven to be successful and use high impact strategies for STEM or can be replicated in STEM disciplines. There should be significant tangible evidence demonstrating this project either led directly to an increase in college completion or led indirectly to an increase in intermediate measures of college completion (such as retention, course performance, cost to students, etc.). Projects with inconclusive results or those that led to changes in factors not necessarily connected to college completion will not be considered.

Incubate and Replicate proposals will receive equal consideration for funding.

PROPOSAL CRITERIA

Projects proposed in either category should fall into the prioritized areas noted in the overview.

Furthermore, proposed projects must demonstrate an ability to be:

SUSTAINABLE

The CCG Innovation grants are one-time awards. Therefore, it is important that the project can be sustained after the funding period ends.

TRANSFORMATIVE

The project can potentially have a significant impact on a substantial proportion of the students in STEM core classes at the institution.

SCALABLE

The project has the ability to be scaled up to other USG institutions.

PROPOSAL DETAILS

FORMAT
- Maximum six pages in length + Cover Page + Appendix
- Submit as a Word document

COVER PAGE
- Title of the project
- Proposal project lead/contact
- Other team members (name, title, institution, e-mail)
- Project category- Incubate or Replicate
- Overview of project (100 words or less)
- Impact on completion (50 words or less)
- Potential lessons to be learned (50 words or less)

CONCEPT DESCRIPTION [Recommend no more than two pages]
- Identify the area of need on your campus and address how this project would address this need. (Baseline data must be included in the Appendix section).
- Define the project's potential impact on student success and college completion in STEM.
- Explain the potential lessons learned from the project and the impact the project could have on the institution as well as the USG if it were scaled.

PROJECT PLAN [Recommend no more than one page]
- Describe goals, objectives and deliverables associated with the project, with the ability to show initial results within 6-12 months.
- Please include a detailed timeline of the project that includes specific tasks, milestones, resources and personnel associated with the project.

LOGIC MODEL [Recommend approximately one page]
- Proposals must provide a logic model (see Logic Model Guide, below) that connects the project inputs, activities and outputs to the interim outcomes of college completion.

PROJECT BUDGET [Recommend approximately one page]
- Please provide a projected budget and brief justification for each budget item. Budget items should be directly connected to project advancement.

PROJECT EVALUATION [Recommend approximately one page]
- Provide a brief evaluation plan to assess the outcomes of the project. This plan should refer to the objectives of the proposal and the output and outcomes of the logic model.

PLEASE NOTE: Budgets will be supported by State funds and therefore institutions spending project money must ensure compliance with State, BOR and institutional policies and procedures. Selected projects may have to submit revisions or clarifications for budgets.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS [Recommend no more than two pages]
• Appendix – baseline data for project

LOGISTICS

The USG will host a webinar on **May 20, 2015** from **2:00 PM to 2:30 PM** to provide additional information on the RFP and to answer questions. Please submit any questions you may have in advance to **Innovation@usg.edu**.

Proposal must be submitted under the Vice President for Academic Affairs' signature.

Proposals must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document to **Innovation@usg.edu** by **5pm EST June 19, 2015**.

Follow up questions or interviews may be requested of applicants.

An announcement of grantees is expected in mid-July, 2015.

Awardees will be required to submit a simple contractual timeline of deliverables with the original or modified proposal serving as the statement of work. Please note that awardees' successful applications will be made available to all USG institutions. The USG may also request that applicants with promising proposals that were not funded share their ideas with the USG community.

FAQs

Which institutions are eligible?
All USG institutions or partnerships between USG institutions and other organizations are eligible. However, funds will only be granted to the USG institutions directly.

May an institution submit more than one application?
An institution may serve as the lead institution on up to two applications: one for the Incubate grant and one for the Replicate grant.

Are institutions expected to provide matching funds?
Institutions are not expected to provide financial or in-kind support or matching for these contracted funds.

Should the budget include a line item for overhead costs?
Institutions are encouraged to maximize use of these small, focused funds. While a flat overhead rate is discouraged for **Innovation** projects, in special cases itemized administrative expenses may be appropriate.

When must grant funds be expended in full?
Institutions will be required to expend their grant funds by June 1, 2016. There will be no extensions.

If funded, what types of information and data will we have to provide?
You will need to provide data that reflects that the project meets stated objectives, including STEM course participation and success (baseline, during project and future projections). In addition to the required evaluation component of the proposal, in early 2016, project leads will participate in interviews with CCG project staff and evaluators to determine progress towards objectives.
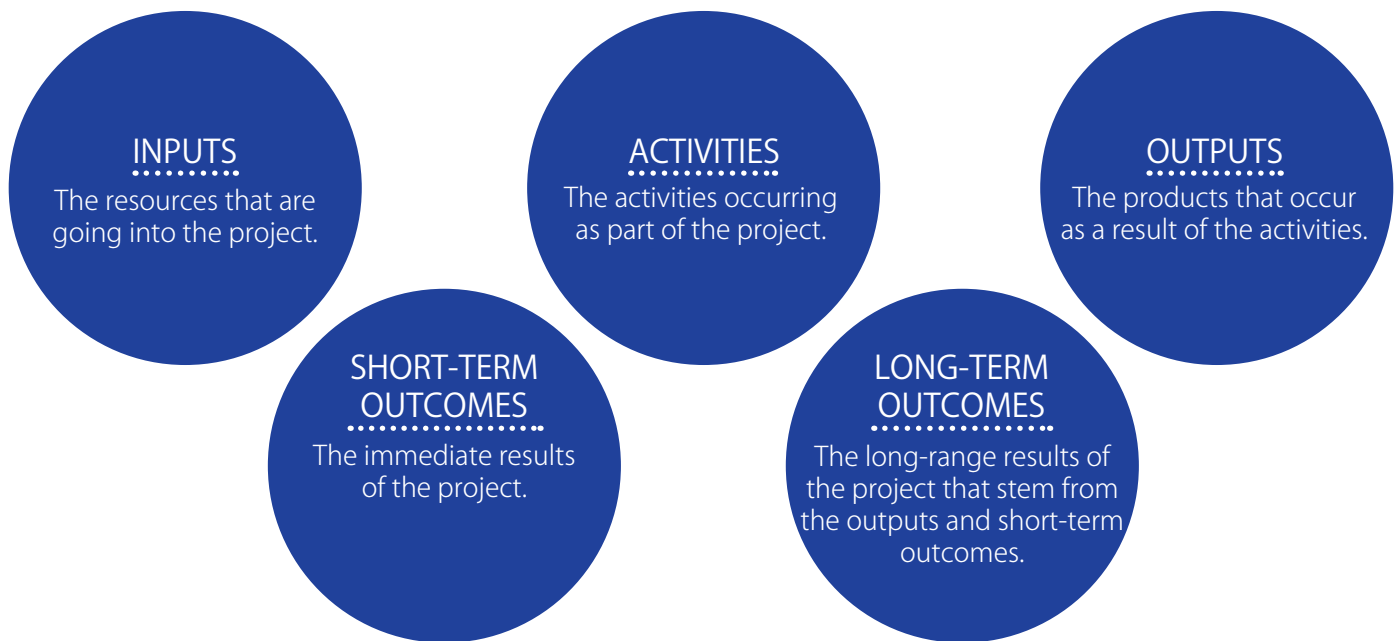
Who can I contact if I have additional questions?
For questions related to RFP content and the webinar: Lesley Anne Fenton (Lesley.Fenton@usg.edu).
For questions related to budget: Robert Todd (Robert.Todd@usg.edu).
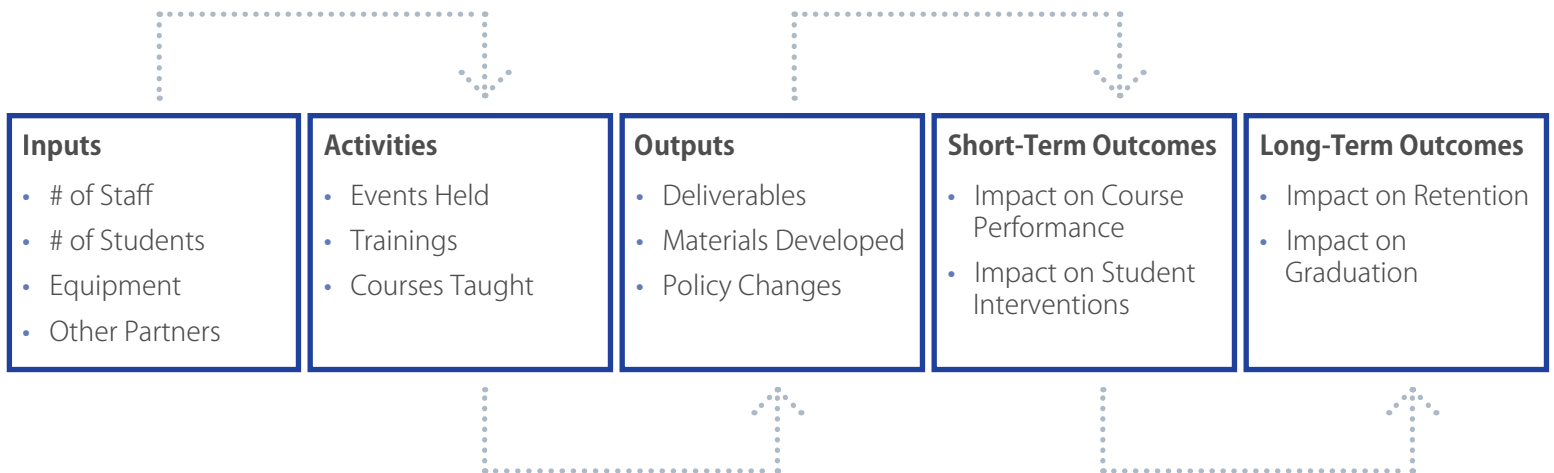
A logic model is a tool typically used in program evaluation to determine effectiveness of a program. The model connects the relationship between the input, activities, outputs and outcomes of the program. The aim is to provide a clear theoretical linkage between the components of a program and understand how particular actions will lead to desired outcomes. A typical logic model includes the following components:

INPUTS
The resources that are going into the project.

ACTIVITIES
The activities occurring as part of the project.

OUTPUTS
The products that occur as a result of the activities.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES
The immediate results of the project.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
The long-range results of the project that stem from the outputs and short-term outcomes.

THE FOLLOWING IS A GENERAL EXAMPLE OF THE STRUCTURE OF A LOGIC MODEL:

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
• # of Staff • # of Students • Equipment • Other Partners	• Events Held • Trainings • Courses Taught	• Deliverables • Materials Developed • Policy Changes	• Impact on Course Performance • Impact on Student Interventions	• Impact on Retention • Impact on Graduation

LOGIC MODEL TEMPLATES AND EXAMPLES

http://evalu-ate.org/featured_resources/resources/ate_logic_model_template/

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/evallogicmodel.html

http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/detail.asp?IDnum=798&category1=Search&category2=NULL