

**Illinois Community College Board
Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Will the guidelines be provided during the NOFO for providers who received some initial funding in the first round of Innovative Bridge and Transition grant funding in May 2019 for framing identified unfunded needs in this second round of grant funding in the November 2019 submission?
 - a. The sessions will focus on the elements as the listed in the current NOFO. Past grants may have different criteria and will not be considered in the current grant.
2. Can the proposal include more than one pathway or bridge program (i.e. transportation, logistics and health care)?
 - a. Yes, you are not limited as long as they all meet the objectives and purposes of the grant. If you propose multiple activities, you will be held accountable for all of them.
3. Can the funds be used for assistance with transportation?
 - a. Yes, you can use them for transportation but, because of the small amount of funds, you may want to partner with other entities to supplement.
4. There is an activity about design for incumbent workers, do the incumbent workers fit the target population?
 - a. Yes, incumbent workers do fit the target population. We encourage you to work with employers.
5. Is the cover page already there to fill in?
 - a. No, you must develop it.
6. Since this is an innovative grant program, where do the points fall in criteria?
 - a. Under Project Development and Activities on page 10 of the NOFO.
7. If a student is separated from high school a while ago, are they eligible?
 - a. Yes, don't go "too deep" into the definition of eligibility.
8. How is this grant integrated with other WIOA programs?
 - a. This is a separate grant from WIOA. Make sure you follow the criteria for **this** grant; abide by the grant requirements.
9. Regarding case management: Will there be a data collection system to enter data into, like DAISi?
 - a. Quarterly reports are required, there is no other data collection system or requirement.
10. Is tuition an allowable expense?

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- a. Yes, but keep in mind the (limited) amount of the grant and maximize your resources.
11. Are we allowed to scale within the same career pathway?
 - a. Yes, but you need to have new participants. Don't "double count" participants.
 12. Is this grant intended to support a new program/innovative start-up? What is the future of the grant?
 - a. Yes, it can be used for an innovative start-up. Future funding is dependent on a state appropriation.
 13. Will participant's immigration status affect the grant?
 - a. No, just describe the population to be served.
 14. Do we have to administer the TABE to participants?
 - a. No, this is not a requirement.
 15. Are photos allowed? Can I use color?
 - a. Yes.
 16. How many institutions will be granted funds?
 - a. This depends on the number of applications received and the funds available. Last year 20-25 applications were received. This year we anticipate more applicants, perhaps 40.
 17. Supplementing/scaling a current initiative: Can we propose the same thing but expand with different individuals?
 - a. Yes, but make it clear that it's an expansion of current services.
 18. Can we say in the proposal how this is the same as a previous grant initiative (i.e., serve the same population but new people)?
 - a. Yes, but make sure it's an expansion. Key words/concepts are expanding/scaling.
 19. Tuition: If a student does not have a high school diploma, should we assume they are going through the ATB process?
 - a. We encourage you to use whatever tuition resources are available; however, the grant may pay for tuition.
 20. Are stipends an allowable activity?
 - a. Yes, stipends are allowed.
 21. Is rent an allowable expense?
 - a. Yes, but make sure you have an equitable process for distribution and maximize your resources.

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22. I am hoping to get clarification as to whether my research center's potential project would be applicable. Our center is interested in conducting a research study of water rates and water rate setting practices in Illinois. This work is tied to concerns about lead and water contamination. As part of the research project we would be employing University of Illinois students as research assistants. We were unsure whether hiring university students as research assistants would meet the requirements for grant eligibility.
- No. This activity does not meet with the scope, goals and objectives of the grant.
23. I attended the presentation at the ICCB offices in Springfield last Thursday, October 10. After the session ended, I asked a question about whether the Innovative Bridge & Transition Program Grant proposal could include some construction costs. We'd like to incorporate our Student Success Center into our Learning Commons to integrate and expand various services to create a "one stop shop" for our students.
- This is acceptable; however, please justify how the construction is meeting the goals and objectives of the grant.
24. We are in discussions to expand our program to IL Central College, but do not have a solid plan on the logistics or exactly how the adoption of our programming would work. My question: Would it be allowable to have a staff salary in the budget to cover developing this scaling strategy?
- Yes, that is an allowable activity.
25. Can the program administrator and the individual responsible for completing the "deliverables" be the same person? In our project there will be no salaries paid to the individual writing curriculum, but that person will also be the administrator. Is this permissible?
- Yes, this can be the same person.
26. Should the goals and objectives of the grant be categorized under the topic of "description of project" or "description of impact"? Also do allowable budget activities include supplies like planners and folders that are to be given to the students?
- The information should be included under "description of project". A detailed description of the project including the measurable goals and objectives.
 - Yes, allowable budget activities do include supplies given to students.
27. We were awarded the Innovative Bridge and Transition Program grant for the cycle that runs from 6/1/2019 to 5/30/20. Would we be eligible to apply for this current NOFO, as a method of continuing/extending our current Innovative Bridge and Transition grant activities?
- Grants cannot be extended or existing grants renewed but may supplement or scale current initiatives. See page 18 of the NOFO.
28. As we detail out a budget for our proposals, is the source of this money federal, requiring us to include the state SURS in this grant for any compensation paid through the grant?
- These are state funds.

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29. We are working on our proposal for the innovative Bridge and Transition proposal and were wondering if basic (remediation) math, reading, and language skills are required elements for our program proposal.
 - a. They are not required elements. Please review the purpose and goals of the grant and the recommended activities to determine proposal direction. If you are doing a bridge or integrated education and training, then basic skills is a requirement.
30. Is there a standard funding limit allotted for institutions applying for the Innovative Bridge and Transition Program Grant?
 - a. No
31. For the purpose of this specific grant, what are considered “indirect costs”?
 - a. Check with your institutions finance office for information. Also see pages 1 & 2 of the Uniform Budget.
32. As indicated in the funding information section “Recipients are not eligible to renew or extend existing grant-funded projects but may supplement or scale current initiatives”. Does this specifically reference projects previously funded by the Innovative Bridge and Transition Program Grant or are all projects previously funded by any grant restricted from using IBTPG to renew or extend?
 - a. All IBT Grants.
33. Which line item in the budget can we use to capture the cost of tuition for a student?
 - a. Training and Education.
34. Should the goals and objectives of the grant be categorized under the topic of “description of project” or “description of impact”?
 - a. The information should be included under “description of project” A detailed description of the project including the measurable projects goals and objectives.
35. For the Uniform Budget, if we are planning to have Instructors as contractors, where would their salary belong?
 - a. Contractual Services line
36. If we would like our instructors and staff to attend training so that they are better equipped with knowledge and tools, where would the cost belong?
 - a. Training and Education
37. Where do awards and incentives for students go on the Uniform Budget template?
 - a. Support Services
38. Is a not credit bearing program eligible for consideration and if so, if a program is designed for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is transition into WIOA identified job sectors a requirement to be considered for funding or may we identify job opportunities suited to each student’s skill and abilities as long as we are able to give examples of those positions?

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- a. Yes, non-credit bearing is an eligible activity. Transition into WIOA identified sectors are not a requirement. However, the institution has to provide a justification of the need for the particular sector selected.
39. I'm doing the budget for the IBT grant and I see there is a match requirement. Is there a certain percentage that we should have matched?
- a. There is no match requirement for this grant. See section B.
40. Page 5 of the budget is the FFATA Data Collection Form, and it is noted the form should be completed "as needed by agency.", We are requesting less than \$30,000 from ICCB. Do we still need to fill out this portion of the budget?
- a. Because we are not familiar with your organization finances, we cannot answer this question. However, 1 and 2 are mutually dependent on each other. If one is no and the other yes, you don't have to complete. If both are yes then complete. After an award determination is made, if changed need to be made, we will contact you.