

**2014-15 Budget
Awards for Innovation in Higher Education**

Frequently Asked Questions
Updated August 21, 2014

The Department of Finance welcomes your questions about the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education, as well as any feedback you have, as we implement the program. Please submit your questions to innovationawards@dof.ca.gov and visit <http://www.dof.ca.gov/innovationawards/> regularly for new responses.

Q1: What is the role of the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education?

A1: Pursuant to provisions included in the Budget Act of 2014, the selection committee will (1) select which campuses receive awards and the determine the amount of funds included in each of those awards and (2) approve use of the funds included in those awards based on reports submitted by the recipients.

Q2: When will the first meeting of the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education be held?

A2: The Director of Finance intends to convene the selection committee on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at 1:00. The meeting will be held at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The Department of Finance will post the meeting agenda at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/innovationawards/> and will email the agenda to those who have signed up for the program mailing list. We encourage you to sign up for the mailing list by visiting the website.

Q3: Can we apply as a private institution? Are there any other awards for which private institutions can apply?

A3: The Department of Finance hopes that private institutions will be involved in efforts to advance the state priorities for higher education included in this program. While private institutions may not submit applications individually, private institutions may participate in applications coordinated by UC, CSU, or community college campuses. There are not separate awards directed specifically at private institutions.

Q4: How can a campus or group of educational entities applying for an award use the money if their application is selected to receive an award?

A4: Campuses selected for awards will be required to submit reports to the Department of Finance indicating how they intend to use the funds included in those awards. The selection committee is required to approve of any proposed use of an award before the Director of Finance may distribute funds to an award recipient.

Q5: If a group is selected to receive an award, how will the funds be allocated between the partners of that group?

A5: An application must be coordinated by a UC, CSU, or community college campus. Funds would be released to the institution that coordinates the application, and that institution would be responsible for distributing funds to the entities participating in the application.

Q6: When will the application be available?

A6: The Department of Finance expects to post a draft of the application at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/innovationawards/> by September 5, 2014. The application will also be sent to those who sign up for the program mailing list.

Q7: How will the applications be evaluated and how will the amount of each award be determined?

A7: In making recommendations to the selection committee regarding which campuses should receive awards and the amount of funds that should be included in each award, the Department of Finance will evaluate applications based on the extent to which the actions described in the application:

- Credibly achieve the state's priorities at a lower cost than existing policies, practices, and systems, without requiring that students pay increased tuition or fees.
- Involve broad participation by UC, CSU, and community college campuses and by local education agencies, including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, and can be replicated by other campuses and groups.
- Show commitment to achieving the state's priorities, as evidenced by changes made to existing policies, practices, and systems on or after January 10, 2014; the likelihood of any planned changes; the support of faculty, students, and other individuals and groups involved in or impacted by these changes; and the ability to sustain changes over the long-term.

The Department of Finance intends to provide additional information in the application regarding the components of strong applications.

Q8: When will the awards be made?

A8: The Director of Finance intends to convene the selection committee in March 2015 to determine which campuses should receive awards and the amount of funds that should be included in each award. The Director of Finance will distribute the funds included in awards after a subsequent meeting at which the selection committee approves the use of funds, as proposed by award recipients. Consistent with the availability of these funds, the awards will be distributed no later than June 30, 2015.

Q9: How long will award recipients have to use the funds?

A9: The Department of Finance does not intend to restrict the length of time award recipients have to use the funds.