

Growing Inland Achievement Award Guidelines

Growing Inland Achievement (GIA) is a bi-county K-20 collaborative dedicated to increasing baccalaureate degree attainment in the region, particularly among underrepresented groups. The GIA Governing Board is comprised of top leaders of K-12 education, higher education, business and civic sectors who are committed to working together in new ways and aligning resources to achieve the following goals for the region:

1. Align educational policy and initiatives regionally via a bi-county cradle-to-career collective impact model.
2. Increase college preparedness, particularly in math, resulting in a 20% reduction in number of students requiring remediation at matriculation from high school to college within 5 years.
3. Increase baccalaureate, associate, certificate and credential attainment by 15% across the two counties within 5 years.
4. Increase the number of students completing the baccalaureate degree within 6 years by 10% across the two counties within 5 years.
5. Improve career preparedness through strengthened partnership with industry to better align education with workforce development needs.

With funding awarded by the Governor's Innovation Award in Higher Education, GIA plans to award approximately \$3.5 million from 2017 – 2019 to local initiatives that advance these goals. In 2017, approximately \$600,000 - \$750,000 will be granted for two-year awards of \$150,000 each according to the criteria outlined below. The awards conducted in 2017 will inform the priorities and selection process for future rounds of grantmaking in 2018 and 2019.

Below we describe for the GIA Innovation Awards:

- Purpose and focus
- Eligibility specifications
- Award criteria
- Proposal guidelines
- Selection process and timeline

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Marie Allen, Senior Director, Growing Inland Achievement at (909) 256-0011 or info@inlandempiregia.org with the subject line: "GIA Innovation Award Question"

Purpose and Focus

The GIA Innovation Awards will support initiatives designed to make substantial progress in achieving one or more of the GIA educational goals outlined above. We are particularly focused on those efforts that involve more than one educational segment (K-12, community college and

higher education) and/or more than one sector (education, business and civic) to improve outcomes for students. We recognize that traditional funding models – in education in particular – often do not provide resources for such collaboration and thus, we are focusing these awards on providing the “glue” resources to support promising partnerships and approaches that align institutions for students’ success.

Below are a few examples of the types of initiatives that could be awarded. Please note that these are meant as examples only:

- Creation or further development of a “College Promise” program, which includes institutional improvements that redesign how colleges organize remediation and academic pathways, offers additional financial assistance and/or provides a range of student supports to ensure students complete the college journey;
- Strengthening of a seamless path from secondary through to postsecondary, leveraging known college and career best practices (e.g., Linked Learning, AVID, dual enrollment).

The funding is designed to provide substantive support (\$150,000 over two years), while encouraging the contribution of local resources (through a 50% matching requirement, described further under the budget section). It is the intention of GIA that these awards advance promising efforts in the region, while also recognizing the value of garnering additional resources that can be utilized for sustainability over the longer term.

Eligibility Specifications

- An applicant may be a K-12 school district, community college or community college district, four-year university, nonprofit organization, or any combination of such institutions in Riverside and/or San Bernardino counties.
- The initiative or partnership for which an application is submitted may be a newly proposed effort or one that is already underway.

Selection Criteria

Proposals that meet the following criteria will be the most competitive:

- Demonstrate how the initiative or partnership¹ involves working across institutions to align resources and coordinate actions to improve student success.
- Articulate clearly the major strategies and activities over the next two years that are designed to make progress toward one or more of the goals outlined above.

¹ The use of “initiative or partnership” is meant to indicate that the effort for which resources are sought may entail either an informal collaboration among institutions to work together on an “initiative” or a more formal partnership that may be undertaking a variety of projects.

- Describe how the multiple institutions will work together – or have worked together – to achieve the goal(s), including areas of responsibility, processes to align work across institutions, and mechanisms of accountability.
- Identify clear targets with regard to student outcomes and sound approaches to measure progress, including the use of data to show outcomes and inform strategies.
- Describe how the project could serve as a model for the region and how outcomes and lessons learned would be shared with others.

Proposal Guidelines

The following outline provides suggestions to help you write the proposal. Please limit your proposal to no more than ten pages. Clarity and concision is of greatest importance.

1. Organizational Background

- Discuss the capacity of the lead entity and other key partners to implement the proposed plan. Describe what the lead entity and other key partners are planning to commit in terms of resources towards accomplishing the proposal's objectives.
- Describe the partnership(s) you have or are planning to develop with other educational institutions, business and civic partners. Please provide background on related partnerships, including their origin, purpose, nature of mutual commitments, accomplishments and any other relevant background.

2. Proposed Activities

Provide a description of what you are seeking to do and accomplish with the requested award funds, including:

- The initiative or partnership's area(s) of focus in improving student outcomes, which might entail, for example:
 - Increasing college readiness by improving:
 - A-G completion rates
 - Math proficiency, or
 - English language proficiency
 - Increasing college access through counseling and assistance in securing financial aid
 - Accelerating students' enrollment in credit-bearing transfer-level courses through, for example, dual enrollment and co-requisite remediation.
 - Increasing transfer rates from community colleges to four-year universities by increasing the number and percentage of students earning an Associate Degree for Transfer and smoothing the transition to four-year institutions

- How your plans either build on proven practices in the field or stem from a sound rationale for a new approach.
- The extent to which your plans will close educational achievement gaps among students of different ethnic backgrounds and genders, if applicable.
- How you will assess or are assessing your approach to ascertain the impact on students, including the specific data and/or indicators you plan to collect and analyze.
- The ways in which the project's leaders would share outcomes and lessons learned with others in the region.

3. Project Management and Timeline

- Describe the staffing for the initiative or partnership, identifying personnel and any consultants or advisors who would be involved. Include brief biographies of the key staff who will lead program implementation.
- Provide a timeline for the initiative's or partnership's major activities over the next two years.

4. Project Budget Narrative

- Indicate the total initiative or partnership budget and the specific amount of that total requested from GIA. Awards may be up to \$150,000 over two years.
- Describe how the initiative or partnership will meet the 50% match requirement either through in-kind resources, new fundraising, or a combination of both. It is expected that half of the match will be raised by the end of the first year and the remainder raised within the following six months.
- Describe how the GIA award would leverage, though not duplicate or supplant, other funding sources.
- Discuss the financial plan for continuing the work of the initiative or partnership after the expiration of the GIA Innovation Award.

Selection Process and Timeline

Final award decisions will be made by the GIA Governing Board (listed below). The board will benefit from the recommendations of a review panel of experts and leaders. The review panel will assess the proposals in the context of the criteria described above and will provide its recommendations to the board. The board will consider the review panel's recommendations and make final decisions on March 12, 2018.

GIA Governing Board

- California State University, San Bernardino
- Chaffey College
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership
- One Future Coachella Valley
- Riverside Community College District
- Riverside Office of Education
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- University of California, Riverside

Timeline

- Jan 3 Press Release announcing the 2018 Innovation Awards; GIA Award Guidelines and samples are posted on the website
- Feb 16 Proposals are due by 5 p.m.; please email your proposal to info@inlandempiregia.org with the subject line “GIA Award Proposal: [Your Organization Name]”
- Feb – Mar GIA staff may follow up with questions or requests for further information.
- Feb 19 Proposals are distributed to the review panel.
- Mar 2 Review panel meets, discusses proposals and determines recommendations for the Board’s consideration. (Date subject to change based on availability)
- Mar 12 GIA Governing Board considers the review panel’s recommendations and determines the awards to be granted.