

Regional Investment Initiative – Implementation Phase FAQ

Posted on March 20, 2025

- **Are the Round 2 dates before the Round 1 dates?**

The Round 1 dates are in 2025. The Round 2 dates are in 2026.

- **Is there a total number of NOIs that can be submitted per region?**

No.

- **Are individual municipalities eligible to submit a NOI?**

Yes.

- **When and how will conveners receive the list of NOIs that the state receives?
Will the list be public or just shared with regional conveners?**

The list of eligible NOIs will be posted on the GO-Biz website within 48 hours of the due date.

- **Will the lead entity serve as the fiscal agent for all awarded projects within a regional cluster, or will each project be awarded through individual contracts?**

Each project will be awarded independently through specific fiscal agents.

- **Are private for-profit entities eligible to be members of the coalition?**

Yes, but they may not lead any projects as they are not eligible applicants.

- **Will the Steering Committee have the authority to vote on the list of projects that will receive a letter from the associated regional Convenor.**

No. Please review page 6 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **Will any educational webinars and TA assistance be provided?**

Yes. A pre-recorded informational presentation will be posted to the GO-Biz website on Monday, March 24, 2025.

- **Will all eligible project cluster receive funding?**

No.

- **Can a lead entity on one project also be a partner on another project they are not leading?**

Yes.

- **Is the state going to evaluate projects mostly based on the project itself, or how it fits in with the other projects in the cluster? Or both?**

Please review page 20 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **Is each project cluster required to have 3-8 ready to go projects?**

Yes.

- **How will project clusters that are not under “Accelerate” or “Bet” be considered?**

Please see page 5 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **Will project clusters under "Strengthen" or “Anchor” be considered for funding?**

No.

- **What is the ceiling for overhead/administrative costs?**

Administrative costs are limited to 10% of the total award.

- **What constitutes a “Regional Coalition?”**

Please review page 5 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **Can the grants be used to secure land to build workforce housing - are these grants usable for land acquisition?**

Yes, but all projects should be ready-to-go upon award.

- **Is there a required structure for the regional coalitions?**

No.

- **If a coalition is approved for funding, will individual awards be issued to each of the individual project leads since they are being evaluated independently?**

Coalitions will be deemed eligible in the pre-application phase, but not all projects within the cluster are guaranteed funding.

- **Are projects involving an employer sponsored housing model that aim to lower the barrier to housing for teachers and other school district employees eligible for Implementation grant funding?**

Yes, if they are tied to a project cluster that is aimed at advancing job creation, attraction, and access in a tradable sector within the “Accelerate” or “Bet” buckets, as defined in the State Economic Blueprint.

- **Can a proposal address multiple economic sectors?**

No.

- **If we have several questions that have not been addressed, can we speak with someone at GO-Biz over the phone to get our questions answered?**

During the open application period, GO-Biz staff are not able to speak with potential applicants. A second FAQ will be produced ahead of the Pre-Application application deadline.

- **Can an individual implementation project support cross-regions as well?**

Yes, but a letter confirming regional plan alignment will be required with the pre-application submission from each related regional convenor.

- **We understand for-profit entities are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant. Are for-profits eligible to receive funds either as a subaward or a service contractor?**

Yes.

- **For question one on the pre-application, we must provide an overview of each project and there are expected to be between 3 to 8 projects per project cluster. Is the cap 300 words per project times the number of projects proposed? Or 300 words total regardless of number of projects?**

300 words regardless of the number of projects.

- **Can you share more content details for the full application proposal stage of the RII Implementation Phase?**

Additional details will be available for lead entities and project leads for approved pre-applications.

- **Does the lead applicant need to be affiliated with regional conveners or another pre-designated entity in an economic region, or can an independent nonprofit coalition apply directly?**

An independent non-profit may apply, however as the application proceeds through the process, a letter confirming the project aligns with the regional strategy will be required from the regional convenor.

- **If regional coalition participation is required, can an independent nonprofit form its own coalition outside of the regional convenor?**

Yes.

- **Are there any restrictions on new applicants that were not previously engaged in prior phases?**

No.

- **At what point will the lead entity need to submit the letter from the regional convenor? Is a letter required per project or for the full cluster?**

No. Letters are due with pre-applications. Only one letter is required per project cluster.

- **Can our region submit our own Ag-tech cluster of projects if another region is also submitting an interregional Ag-tech project cluster that includes other ag-tech projects within our region?**

Yes.

- **Can we develop a cluster of projects under the "Accelerate" sector of Advanced/Precision Manufacturing? (Advanced Manufacturing is listed as an Accelerate sector, but on the graphic in the Economic Blueprint, the font and placement is different than other sectors.)**

Yes.

- **The RFP states that an organization can only be a lead entity for one project cluster. But can an organization be the project lead on more than one project?**

Yes.

- **Since submitting our Regional Plan, our regional stakeholders have identified Biotech as a sector that they want to pursue. Can we submit a Biotech cluster even though it wasn't featured prominently in our Regional Plan?**

Yes, as long as the sector is identified in some way in the regional plan(s).

- **Will each project have its own fiscal agent or does one entity have to serve as the fiscal agent for the entire cluster?**

Each project will be awarded to distinct fiscal agents.

- **I would like to clarify whether or not the "partnerships" referred to in the materials refer only to organizations that are financial partners.**

Regional coalitions can and should include a variety of partners, including individual project proponents and additional nonprofit and for-profit partners.

- **Can there be subcontractors/vendors that are for profit?**

Yes.

- **Can any one entity be part of multiple applications? For example, can an entity submit an LOI as a lead entity AND be included in another lead entity's project coalition?**

Yes.

- **Can a lead entity ALSO contribute a unique project to the sector cluster within the application?**

Yes.

- **Can a project be represented in multiple applications throughout the state?**

Yes, as long as it is tied back to the tradable sector identified in the NOI.