

**Regional Investment Initiative
Implementation Full Application FAQ #2
Posted on December 16, 2025**

- **Can you confirm the Full Application submission deadline?**

Yes. Deadline for the Full Application is Friday, January 16, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. PT.

- **The instructions on pages 15/16 are contradictory: If we are sure, based on the nature of the proposed work, that our project is not a "public work", do we still need to go through the time-consuming process of seeking determination from DIR?**

As indicated in the Full Application, a legally binding determination would be necessary to confirm proposed work is not a public work, or the entity can proceed with application of prevailing wage laws and stipulations.

- **For our cluster's coalition, four regions were documented. A fifth region that is contiguous to the original four would be a logical partner for our multi-region, statewide coalition. Can this fifth region be included in our regional coalition and integrated in the full application?**

An additional region may be added to the regional coalition, however a “new project” not identified in the Pre-Application is not allowed to be added to the Full Application. Reminder: Any partners included in the coalition will provide a “partner” letter outlining how they will collaborate to implement the project should it be awarded funds.

- **Will the projects be reviewed as a cluster? We know that each project must submit their own application as will be funded on their own merits, but will reviewers evaluate all the projects within a cluster at the same time/as a package?**

Projects will be reviewed as individual projects within the cluster. The cluster will be considered collectively to determine how it advances the growth of the target sector.

- **May two projects within the same cluster secure partnership agreement letters from the same partner? Is there a maximum number of partnership agreement letters?**

Yes, partnership agreement letters are a required part of the Full Application. Each application must include a minimum of 3 letters as referenced on page 20. Projects within the same cluster may secure partnership letters from the same partner and the letter should outline resources the partner will deliver to implement each project.

- **Are budget totals for each project submitted in the Pre-Application questionnaire and the contact form binding for the final proposal? Do we have the flexibility to adjust these amounts as the final budgets are fleshed out and built?**

No, final budgets for the Full Application can vary from the total provided in the prior questionnaire. NOTE: the final budget for an awarded project may also be adjusted by GO-Biz as the contract agreement is finalized.

- **For the License, page 18, section of the Full Application, we interpret it to mean that the Awardee, (cluster lead) would obtain ownership of any intellectual property (IP) developed under the projects. A potential partner states that it seems odd that the cluster lead (in our case, a city) would obtain ownership of IP rather than the inventing entity with the start-up having rights to practice or even exclusive rights. Can you confirm that we are interpreting this correctly? If we are, can you clarify why this is?**

Award selections will be in accordance with the individual Full Applications submitted by each project lead. Applicable project leads, or their designated fiscal agent, would enter into the grant agreement with the State and be the Awardee to which licensing would be retained.

Full Timeline of All Grant Related Activities

Application Phase

- Office Hours: December 18, 2025 – 11:30 AM PT
- Full Application Due: January 16, 2026 – 5:00 PM PT

Selection and Award Phase

- Mandatory Pitch (for invited applicants): April 2026, in Sacramento
- Award Announcements: By mid-August 2026
- Grant Agreements Executed: October 2026 (Funds cannot be obligated before execution)

Implementation Phase (Period of Performance - POP)

- Start Date: Targeting October 1, 2026
- First Deliverable (Project Implementation Plan): Due 30 days after start

POP Duration: 24 months (through ~September/October 2028)