Regional Investment Initiative – Implementation Phase FAQ #3

Posted on October 28, 2025

- **It was mentioned that consultants/implementation partners seeking to partner with CBOs could submit NOIs to facilitate partnership formation. As an implementation partner seeking a CBO lead applicant (not serving as lead myself), I want to ensure I submit appropriately.**

  Should I: A) Submit an NOI indicating I'm an implementation partner seeking CBO lead? B) Wait to connect with CBOs after their NOIs are posted on November 6th? C) Use a different mechanism to signal availability to potential CBO partners?

  The list of eligible NOIs will be posted on the GO-Biz website within 48 hours of the due date. Submissions that are not eligible to complete a pre-application will not be included in the posting. This will be most efficient way to identify potential projects to connect with for partnering opportunities.

- **We are an Anchor Sector serving the Early Care & Education (aka child care in the Blueprint) workforce. I do see in the RFP on page 7 of the RFP that "Eligible Projects" do include "Additional Anchors", but I want to be sure this is actually an allowable sector.**

  Project clusters must fall within one tradable sector (as identified in the “Accelerate” or “Bet” categories within the State Economic Blueprint). See page 5 of the RFP. Project clusters must include two or more project categories which may include an anchor. Anchor sectors are not considered tradable sectors within the Blueprint.

- **Do you have a cap on indirect dollars for Lead applications?**

  Indirect dollars (administrative costs) may not exceed 10% of the total award.

- **Can you provide more clarity on the project categories, in particular Ecosystem Support?**

  See review page 7 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **As a for-profit organization, what are the ways we can participate as a strong implementation phase partner?**

For-profit organizations are not eligible to be a lead applicant, but can receive funds either as a sub-awardee or contractor of the lead applicant.

- **Would Clean Economy be acceptable or do I need to list the more detailed sector such as Hydrogen, Solar, ZEV, etc.?**

  Clean Economy is considered a sector. It is not required to select a sub-sector for the notice of intent; however, grant eligibility is limited to the sub-sectors as outlined on the placemat within the Accelerate and Bet industry sectors within the State Economic Blueprint.

- **If one of the cluster's partners is out of state, can they participate in the cluster? Are there certain requirements that they would need to meet to be eligible as a project in a cluster?**

  The lead applicant must meet the criteria as listed on page 6 of the Implementation Phase RFP. Partners are not required to be in California, but program is focused on supporting the creation, attraction, and access to good-paying jobs for Californians in California.

- **Do relevant permits need to be obtained by the time of full-application submission? Do we need to describe permits obtained/planned as part of the application? Is there any consideration for projects requiring permits to still be considered "shovel-ready" if the applicant describes the plan to obtain relevant permits in-house (a city as applicant) before a project start date of August 2026?**

  Projects must be ready-to-go and able to be completed within the 24-month period of performance (POP) as referenced on page 7 of the Implementation Phase RFP.

- **How would one go about joining a coalition or otherwise form a coalition to participate in this grant cycle?**

  The list of eligible NOIs will be posted on the GO-Biz website within 48 hours of the due date. Coalitions can be formed based on published information or through local partnership within and/or across regions.

- **Our organization firmly fits in the 'anchor' category among Strategic Sector Categories, are we eligible to apply for this grant cycle?**

  No – a project cluster must identify a single tradable sector (as identified in the "Accelerate" or "Bet" categories within the State Economic Blueprint)

- **Is a project cluster advancing the Healthcare industry through education and workforce development eligible and/or competitive? Can we identify Healthcare as a target sector? Or can we only select a sector from the Accelerate or Bet categories?**

  No – Healthcare is identified as an “Anchor.” A project cluster must identify a single tradable sector (as identified in the “Accelerate” or “Bet” categories within the State Economic Blueprint).

- **I submitted a notice of intent and realized, after submission, that I had excluded an additional region. Can I revise the NOI to include the missing region in addition to the listed region?**

  No – Any lead entity is eligible to submit a maximum of one Notice of Intent in each review cycle. The missing region can be added with the pre-application.

- **Would it be permissible to serve as the lead for individual projects within separate project cluster proposals (two distinct projects with different objectives)?**

  Yes.

- **Are current Tribal RII sub-awardees eligible to apply as a lead application or sub-awardee under the Round 2 CA Jobs First Implementation grants opportunity?**

  Yes – Tribal Investment sub-awardees are eligible to apply as a lead applicant of serve as a sub-awardee for the Implementation Phase.

- **Are current Catalyst, Planning or Round 1 lead awardees or sub-awardees eligible to apply as lead applicants or sub-awardees under the Round 2 grants opportunity?**

  Yes, except Round 1 lead awardees for Tribal Investment and Implementation Phase. Awardees under Tribal Investment Phase or Implementation Phase may only serve as sub-awardees for Round 2.

- **Are organizations that did not participate in Phase 1 eligible to apply directly for Phase 2 funding, or is it limited to coalitions and projects that participated in Phase 1?**

  Yes – Applicants are not limited to coalitions and projects awarded in Round 1 of Implementation Phase.

- **I am inquiring about the dates of the review periods for the CA RII RPF. I have seen conflicting dates in different PDF documents. Could you share the official dates of the two review periods?**

  Please refer to the GO-Biz Publications webpage for the most up to date information. Dates can be found in the Implementation Phase RFP and changes reflected in the Implementation Phase RFP Errata.

- **Can multiple regional affiliates of a national organization headquartered in California submit NOIs in their respective regions, or can only one affiliate submit an NOI as a lead applicant?**

  A Notice of Intent must identify the region or regions where the proposed project(s) will be implemented. One lead applicant should be identified for each NOI submitted.

- **Is there someone we can call for a brief clarifying phone conversation?**

  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. Please consider reviewing the recorded office hour sessions held in September for additional information.

- **As the Accelerate and Bet categories both include Clean Economy, can a single cluster have projects under the Accelerate Clean Economy subsectors and projects under the Bet Clean Economy subsectors? For example, can a single project cluster have a batteries project and a hydrogen project? If it is possible, would you just say your cluster is a Clean Economy cluster?**

  Yes – Clean Economy is considered a sector. It is not required to select a sub-sector for the notice of intent; however, grant eligibility is limited to the sub-sectors as outlined on the placemat within the Accelerate and Bet industry sectors within the State Economic Blueprint.

- **Is the Clean Economy cluster two separate clusters, one in the Accelerate and one in the Bet category? Can we submit in the Clean Economy Cluster and only focus on ZEVs?**

  Clean Economy has sub-sectors that are at different stages of growth potential in terms of the types of investments necessary to capitalize. A sub-sector may be selected as long as it falls within one tradable sector (as identified in the "Accelerate" or "Bet" categories within the State Economic Blueprint).

- **Our proposed project will expand education and skilled workforce training for solar/clean energy careers, aligning with your priorities around the Anchor Sector: Education and Skilled Workforce and outcomes that strengthen the Clean Economy (Solar). Would you prefer that we select Clean Economy – Solar as the target sector, or should we choose Education and Skilled Workforce? If multi-select is allowed, we can indicate both.**

  Project clusters must fall within one tradable sector (as identified in the "Accelerate" or "Bet" categories within the State Economic Blueprint). See page 5 of the RFP. Project clusters must include two or more project categories which may include an anchor. Anchor sectors are not considered tradable sectors within the Blueprint.

- **How can an applicant confirm/determine alignment with a regional strategy for the added industries (shipbuilding and fusion)?**

  An applicant will need to receive affirmation from a regional convener that the industry sector identified in the NOI aligns with the regional strategy where the project(s) will be implemented.

- **How are convenors to confirm alignment for the added industries shipbuilding and fusion?**

  A region may update its regional strategy to include added industries based on data and research that provides rationale for the addition. Regional strategies are considered living documents to be updated as conditions change and/or new opportunities emerge.

- **Does shipbuilding only refer to DOD ships because it is under that sector? Would scientific/research vessels count?**

  Shipbuilding refers to manufacturing of ships in California.