

## **Catalyst Pre-Development NOFO**

### **Round 2**

#### **Question and Answer (Q&A)**

*Last Updated: June 13, 2025*

**Q. I intend to submit an application for California Jobs First funding and have the following questions:**

- **Is there a match required? If so, what percentage of the grant amount?**
- **If there is a match, is it an in-kind or cash match requirement?**

**Answer:** No match is required, but matches of any kind would strengthen an application.

**Q. Is it possible to be awarded pre-development funds via this opportunity and also implementation funds through the GoBiz RII opportunity? Or are you technically ineligible for these pre-development funds if you are awarded implementation funding?**

**Answer:** You aren't ineligible, but it may be hard to justify how a project needs pre-development funding and implementation funding at the same time. If a project is implementation ready, beyond being a pilot, then it cannot receive catalyst funding.

**Q. Is it possible to get feedback on our application from the previous cycle?**

**Answer:** Unfortunately, there was a 30-day window to make that request, and that window has now closed.

**Q. Are there any changes to the NOFO - compared to the NOFO for the previous cycle? Or could we resubmit the same materials as round 1 if nothing has changed.**

**Answer:** The primary changes are the expansion of who should benefit from these projects and the use of an online application portal.

**Q. Are there details about the previous awards that are available to the public?**

**Answer:** Yes, the 14 Catalyst awardees are published on our [Jobs First webpage](#) below the Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Funding Awardees section.

**Q. Tourism...does this include culinary arts and hospitality?**

**Answer:** Yes, it does.

**Q. Can 1 organization/agency submit 3 different grant proposals for 3 different departments?**

**Answer:** Yes. They would just need to submit their own application for each proposal.

**Q. If the project is in education to benefit the business community who hire people or help people who wish to have solutions for their business and cultural intelligence in business, would this qualify?**

**Answer:** Yes, but the project, or at least this funding, must advance one of the job creating priority sectors listed in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

**Q. Can the letter of reference be from a current client?**

**Answer:** Yes, so long as they aren't going to be a direct beneficiary of the project you're applying for.

**Q. I believe this is one year funding, and I presume leveraging this funding for longer term support would be greatly beneficial. Is that accurate? Is that something to highlight?**

**Answer:** Yes. That would strengthen a proposal.

**Q. Is there a minimum funding you're looking to award or a maximum number of grantees?**

**Answer:** No, but around \$50,000 at the minimum is the recommendation.

**Q. Would early-stage startups who go on (post award cycle) to create jobs as they get VC funding count towards job creation?**

**Answer:** This is fair to articulate in the proposal, and we will take it into consideration.

**Q. We're an org that provides paid college students jobs by creating a structured regional workforce pipeline that trains and places college students into STEAM teaching roles across Orange County. Would this be a good fit to scale up to other community college and develop more pipelines and create more jobs?**

**Answer:** Please take a look at the priority sectors listed in the [NOFO](#) within the job creating section. As you think about your proposal., think about how it is increasing economic development, and you are meeting that employment demand.

**Q. Is it fair to say that one of the final deliverables after 1 year is the start of the proposed project?**

**Answer:** If you were doing a last mile project then yes, if you wanted last mile funding that would assume that you would be implementation ready once it's over. If you are in concept or accelerate then you would not be implementation ready for the one year after the funding.

**Q. What type of reporting are you all going to be seeking at the end?**

**Answer:** On the program side, it could be quarterly, but it will be announced at a later time. On the financial side, the reporting will be monthly.

**Q. Is this grant opportunity available to residents outside of Orange County?**

**Answer:** One of the goals of funding Catalyst Pre-Development activities is to advance projects physically located in or have significant participation from Orange County residents. If you are in another county, I encourage you to reach out to one of the other regions who may have grants available. The website linked [here](#), lists all other regions in California.

**Q. Can we submit two proposals, one for each category?**

**Answer:** It is highly unlikely that the same project should apply to both project categories. If you are asking about two separate projects, then yes, each project can apply to the project category that is the best fit.

**Q. While reviewing previously funded projects, I noticed a few initiatives—such as the construction pre-apprenticeship program and Health Access and Community Health Worker trainings—that align with goals we’re pursuing. If our proposed project shares a similar aim but targets a different population or uses a different approach, would we still be eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** Yes, you are eligible to apply.

**Q. Our organization has multiple departments. While I am exploring apprenticeship opportunities through our workforce initiatives, another department is interested in projects focused on increasing healthcare access for community members. Would our organization be permitted to submit two distinct applications with different project goals?**

**Answer:** If you are asking about two separate projects, then yes, each project can apply to the project category that is the best fit. The same organization can submit more than one application.

**Q. Regarding the section in the application labeled ‘Co-applicants/Partner information’, do subawards required some form of paperwork to be attached here or is this more so for applications being submitted jointly?**

**Answer:** The section labeled co-applicants/partner information is for those who are submitting a joint application. This is where you would attach all MOU’s, contracts, signed letters, etc. to show their involvement in this project.

**Q. This is an existing program that we have but are hoping to expand it further to be able to help more community members receive access to care and food. Would an existing program that is hurdled with financial burden be able to apply for this program in the hopes to expand their reach? Therefore, hoping to implement the new approaches on how to outreach to more community members.**

**Answer:** This wouldn't qualify. We can't fund anything that is already in existence. These funds are meant to cover the financial burden to organizations as they explore/look to do something new.