

**Catalyst Pre-Development NOFO
Round 3
Question and Answer (Q&A)**

Last Updated: September 26, 2025

Q: In the NOFO it states that eligible proposals and activities will be to address any “tasks” under the Tactical Workplan within each activation plan. It also states, “Eligible entities are only those that are listed as a ‘Responsible Party’ within the Tactical Workplan or parties that can reasonably classify themselves as associated with the classification/definition of a responsible party.” My question is: what is considered a reasonable classification?

Answer: CJF or OCBC staff will make the ultimate decision of whether the responsible party is eligible under the classifications listed in the tactical workplan. An example of a reasonable classification would be a community college in Orange County applying for funds based on a task under the Healthcare Activation plan that has Educational Institutions and Workforce Training Providers as “Responsible Parties”. Community Colleges are clearly listed under the “Regional Partners and Their Roles” section.

What would not be reasonable would be for that community college to claim they should be classified as a Labor Union under that same plan to propose on tasks where Labor Unions are listed under “Responsible Parties” but Educational Institutions and Workforce Training Providers are not.

If you have any doubts on how to classify your organization, please reach out to jobsfirst@ocbc.org.

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 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: Yes, there are changes. In rounds one and two, the funding was to support essential pre-development activities for impactful ideas. That funding was only meant for projects that were not yet implementation ready and aligned with the Regional Plan Part 2.

In this third round, the Regional Investment Initiative Regional Sector Activation plans provide up to \$1 million in funding available to advance the tasks mentioned in either of the five activation plans ([Healthcare](#), [Medical Technology](#), [Childcare](#), [Tourism and Outdoor Activities](#), and [Semiconductors](#)).

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

Answer: Yes, the 14 Catalyst awardees from round one and 18 awardees from round 2 are published on our [Jobs First webpage](#) below the Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Funding Awardees section.

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

Answer: On the program side, it will be quarterly. On the financial side, the reporting will be monthly.

Q. Regarding the Catalyst Grant, for the question regarding Co-applicants/Partner Information, if I have a sub award would I put documentation here?

Answer: You would list your co-applicant. For example, if I was a city submitting a joint application with another city and I was the lead applicant I would add the other city as co-applicant.