

Question: Are there character limitations?

Answer:

Narrative Section: Yes. There is a 3,000 character limit for each "narrative" question. The system will not allow more than 3,000 characters per narrative question. Each question must be answered within the appropriate text box per narrative question. Uploads with additional narrative information will not be accepted.

Budget Section: Yes. There is a 1,500 character limit for the Jobs & Responsibilities field and a 500 character limit for all other fields.

Question: Will I be able to upload additional narrative documents?

Answer: No, all narrative information will need to be included in the narrative section of the application and subject to the 3,000 character limit per question.

Question: For SEED1 we were allowed more pages (greater character limits) depending on the number of partner organizations we had. Is that still the same this time around?

Answer: For SEED2 no additional narrative is accepted beyond the 3,000 character limit per narrative question. Please note: the system has a set character limit of 3,000 per narrative question, it will not allow for exceptions.

Question: Who are the SEED "target populations" eligible to receive entrepreneurship training and microgrants?

Answer: SEED target populations are individuals who face significant barriers to employment, specifically: (1) individuals with limited English proficiency, regardless of immigration or citizenship status; or (2) individuals who are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful permanent residents. This includes individuals who may not be lawfully present in the United States, and individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). In addition, SEED is open to all individuals in the target populations, including other immigrants, refugees and asylees, and United States citizens.

Question: What is the maximum amount that an applicant can request?

Answer: There is no cap, this is subject to the \$15 million that is available for the entrepreneurship program and \$2 million available for the demonstration project.

Question: In joint proposals, do all CBOs need to have non-profit (501c3) status, or is it fine if only the lead CBO has status?

Answer: Each CBO will need to provide proof of non-profit status by uploading a 501c3 into the system.

Question: Will awardees from SEED 1.0 be eligible to apply for SEED 2.0?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible to apply for the SEED 2 funding.

Question: What qualifies as a "community need?"

Answer: Community needs are the gaps between what services currently exist in a community and what should exist. What qualifies as a community need will vary per community.

Question: As a current SEED1 grantee, if we are awarded funding for a second year, do we need to work with new participants or can we use SEED2 funding to continue to work with some of the participants from the first round – i.e provide them with higher level training and Technical Assistance and additional grant funding?

Answer: You can build the additional training into the budget to provide advanced training to SEED1 awardees but no additional micro-grants can be issued if they have already received one. Micro-grants are limited to one micro-grant per individual and one per business entity.

Question: What are the average microgrant amounts?

Answer:

For Entrepreneurship: The average micro-grant amount should range from approximately \$2,500 to \$7,500. If there are circumstances that warrant an exception, micro-grants in the range of \$7,500 to \$10,000 may be awarded contingent upon adequate justification and documentation by the CBO grantee.

For Demonstration: It varies. At least fifteen percent (15%) of the CBO's total grant award request must be allocated for micro-grants. Each CBO applicant must describe its initial estimate of the number of micro-grants that will be utilized and the approximate range of the micro-grant amount(s), as well as their anticipated intended use.

Question: Do I need to provide an IRS Tax ID Number?

Answer: Yes, the system requires a 9-digit IRS Tax ID Number.

Question: How do I navigate to the specific SEED grant programs within the application?

Answer: Once you click "apply" for the SEED grant, you will be asked to select either Entrepreneurship or Demonstration.

Question: Can a government agency be a partner?

Answer: To be eligible for a SEED grant, the CBO must be a 501c3 / non-profit.

Question: How many months is the grant term (e.g., 12 months)?

Answer: The grant term is 24 months.

Question: What are the permission levels and user rights in Cal-E-Grants?

Answer: Administrators are able to manage users (add, delete, or change permission levels), delete applications, and all basic functions within the system that users can do.

Users are able to do start an application, fill out applications, and submit applications.