

**APPROVED  
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

Item #IV-4  
December 12, 2017

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE  
FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPLICATION AND ALLOCATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval for the Executive Director to determine the allocation of the Fiscal Year 2018 Grow Your Own appropriation and to award grants to eligible consortia participating in the Grow Your Own Teacher Education (GYO) Initiative. The purpose of the GYO Initiative is to help to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers in: 1) hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students; and 2) hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students.

The GYO Act was passed in 2004 and received its first funding in Fiscal Year 2006 from the Illinois State Board of Education. In Fiscal Year 2011, the GYO program was transferred to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Fiscal Year 2015 was the last year Grow Your Own awards were allocated. According to GYO rules, applications can be requested in the following ways: planning; implementation; or continuation grant applications. The implementation and continuation grant rules require a prior fiscal year funding to approved consortia. Due to no previous fiscal year application process or funding allocation, the only option for the Board to proceed with is a planning grant application process. For Fiscal Year 2018, a planning grant application process will be performed to determine eligible grantees. The GYO statute and rules explicitly detail what is to be included in a planning grant application. The planning grant application was released to the public on November 21, 2017. The requested submission date for potential grantee applications is January 5, 2018. The term of the grant will be January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Board staff wish to release awards shortly after the close of the application submission and review process. Therefore we are requesting approval for the Executive Director to make grant awards. Detail on the grantee awards will be provided to board members at the March 13, 2018 Board meeting.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education authorizes the Executive Director to: 1) determine the distribution of funds for administration, evaluation, contractual agreements and support of the GYO program; and 2) distribute grant awards to eligible GYO consortia based on the planning grant application process.



## **GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPLICATION AND ALLOCATION**

### **Background**

This item requests approval for the Executive Director to determine the allocation of the fiscal year 2018 Grow Your Own appropriation and to award grants to eligible consortia participating in the Grow Your Own Teacher Education (GYO) Initiative. The purpose of the GYO Initiative is to help to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers in: 1) hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students.

Fiscal Year 2015 was the last year Grow Your Own awards were allocated. According to GYO rules, applications can be requested in the following ways: planning, implementation, or continuation grant applications. Implementation and continuation grant rules require a prior fiscal year funding to approved consortia. Due to no previous fiscal year application process or funding allocation, the only option for the Board to proceed with is a planning grant application process.

For Fiscal Year 2018, a planning grant application process will be performed to determine eligible grantees. The planning grant application was released to the public on November 21, 2017. The requested submission date for potential grantee applications is January 5, 2018. The term of the grant will be January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The application is available on the IBHE website at <http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/Grants/grantPrg/GYO.htm>.

### **Next Steps**

After the closing of the grant application process, IBHE staff will review and recommend awards for qualifying consortia. Detail on the grantee awards will be provided to board members at the March 13, 2018 Board meeting. IBHE will also look to contract with an external program evaluator (a statutory mandate) to monitor and provide technical assistance to consortia to improve program outcomes along with administration of the program.

### **Recommendation:**

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation for the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative Grants as specified by the statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:*

- 1) Continue to monitor and determine eligibility of institutions pursuant to the statute (110 ILCS 48/1) and the rules implementing that statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1085);*

- 2) *Withhold grant awards until provided with signed grant agreements and other appropriate grant information and materials required by the Act and the rules;*
- 3) *Determine the distribution of funds for administration, evaluation, contractual agreements and support of the GYO program;*
- 4) *Equitably distribute grant awards to eligible GYO consortia:*
  - a. *With the primary focus on direct benefit to candidates; and*
  - b. *As determined based on Fiscal Year 2018 planning grant scoring criteria.*
- 5) *Re-allocate funds between consortia, fund other consortia as necessary, and allocate any remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year.*