

**FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMPETITIVE GRANTS UPDATE  
ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT  
AND GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER INITIATIVE GRANT**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This report updates the steps being taken to restart two Illinois Board of Higher Education competitive grant programs which did not receive funding during the budget impasse: the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program and the Grow Your Own program.

**Action Requested:** None



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program**

There was no appropriation and thus no program during Fiscal Year 2016. While SB 6/P.A. 100-0021 provided funding for Fiscal Year 2017 it was not made available until after the end of the fiscal year. No grant process was undertaken and thus no billable services were provided. Therefore, the entire \$1,089,400 appropriation will lapse. The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2018 was reduced by ten percent to \$980,500. The Board staff released the application for funding on August 10, 2017 for services to be delivered between January 1, 2018 and August 31, 2018. Applications are due no later than October 5, 2017. Recommendations will be presented to the Board at the December 12, 2017 meeting. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$50,000. It is anticipated that applicants will include most of the schools who received grants previously. As in the past, it is likely requests for funding will exceed the funds available.

**Grow Your Own**

There was no appropriation for Fiscal Year 2016 and thus no program spending. While SB 6/P.A. 100-0021 provided funding for Fiscal Year 2017 it was not made available until after the end of the fiscal year. Most of the groups who previously operated disbanded. Although, two groups continued to operate with private funds. Grow Your Own Illinois (GYO) continues to serve a small number of program participants. Hands That Help (Rockford) continued to serve several program participants through the end of Fiscal Year 2017. Their final two students graduated in June but their group remains intact. However, since no grant application process was undertaken it has been determined that Fiscal Year 2017 costs cannot be covered. Therefore, the entire \$1,433,600 appropriation will lapse. The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2018 was not cut and it remains at \$1,433,600.

IBHE assumed responsibility for implementing the GYO program from ISBE in Fiscal Year 2011. In the subsequent period between Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2017, IBHE implemented a number of programmatic changes based on evaluations of GYO and other program data. These changes were designed to improve the processes for recruiting and supporting GYO candidates to completion and, ultimately, hiring in Illinois schools. Examples include instituting minimum requirements for coursework and a policy to allow eligibility for baccalaureate-degree holders who wished to transition from other careers into teaching.

A 2014 evaluation study also surfaced recommendations from stakeholders and other experts about ways to improve provisions in the law and administrative rules to better support desired outcomes. The Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation, coupled with the current context and lessons learned from IBHE's ongoing evaluation of the program, present important opportunities for framing the implementation of GYO accordingly. Academic Affairs is leading this effort in

combination with Grow Your Own Illinois, the Governor's office and others. With only two local groups still in place, and only one of those actively working with students, the expectation is that most Fiscal Year 2018 funding will go to planning grants to get programs up based on a revised platform that reaches out to additional groups that are more likely to succeed. It may be necessary to amend the law to make some of the desired changes. There is no schedule for bidding out this funding. The emphasis is on working to get the program right.