

FISCAL YEAR 2019 GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: The Board staff are initiating changes to some of the Board's grant approval processes. These changes are needed as a result of an internal review done by Board staff along with requirements implemented from the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. The new process will ask for grant applications to be submitted and reviewed before the subsequent fiscal year budget appropriations (in a timeframe of January to May). Implementing this timeframe will allow Board staff to review and recommend grant awards prior to the start of the fiscal year.

Action Requested: None

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Board staff are initiating changes to some of the Board's grant approval processes. These changes are needed as a result of an internal review done by Board staff along with requirements implemented from the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708). The new process will ask for grant applications to be submitted and reviewed before the subsequent fiscal year budget appropriations (in a timeframe of January to May). Implementing this timeframe will allow Board staff to review and recommend grant awards prior to the start of the fiscal year.

This will allow for Board input and approval prior to the start of service for general grants and it will allow funds to be spent within the year for which the appropriations are provided for competitive grants. The implementation of this process will allow for better administration and oversight of grant programs. Grantees will benefit as well through increased certainty and payments that will start sooner in the year.

Based on the current grants administered by the Board, the following grant applications will be started prior to the beginning of the subsequent fiscal year. Under the current process grant awards are made well into the fiscal year.

- Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Program
- Grow Your Own (GYO) Teacher Education Initiative
- Illinois Cooperative Work Study

In addition, the Board will be presented for approval the general grants based on either appropriations passed by the General Assembly or the best information of what final appropriations will be at the time of the Board meeting. The following general grants are in place for this Fiscal Year.

- Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP)
- Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy (IMSA) Fusion
- MyCredits Transfer Project
- Quad-Cities Graduate Center
- University Center of Lake County

All grants and applications will dictate that all awards are subject to appropriation and Board of Higher Education approval.

Moving Board approval from after the start of the fiscal year, generally in September, to before the start of the fiscal year, most likely June, offers the following advantages:

1. Allows for any Board input before services start;
2. Assures that Board approval is granted before services start;
3. Provides a better base for grantee planning and implementation;

4. Provides more certainty in funding to grantees, including allowing them to receive funds earlier in the fiscal year;
5. For competitive grants, maximizes the delivery of services within the fiscal year for which the appropriations are made;
6. Allows more time for grantees to liquidate grant funding;
7. Reduces the need to pursue refunds for unused funds;
8. The ability of staff to monitor and manage grant programs will improve;
9. Better conforms to the spirit of state finance laws, including the Government Accountability and Transparency Act and the Grants Recovery Act; and
10. Greater ability to respond quickly in years where there is a delay in passing appropriations.