

Frequently Asked Questions for the Improvement Challenge

Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible to participate?

- Any publicly-funded school, district, or network. Those whose populations are greater than 50% Black, Latino, Indigenous students, or other students of color, and/or greater than 50% low-income, will be prioritized
- Nonprofits who serve schools, districts, or networks of publicly-funded schools.

The only exceptions to the above bullets are organizations that have been awarded the Networks for School Improvement (NSI) and Model Design and Initiation (MDI) grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation between 2018-2021.

Why are you focusing on continuous improvement?

We believe that continuous improvement (CI) is an effective set of practices to implement lasting change at your organization. Whether you're focusing on social-emotional learning, family and community engagement, or changing protocols and learning environments due to COVID, we believe that CI practices provide rigor and structure that promotes innovative thinking. It creates a safe space to test new ideas, use data to guide the next steps, and openly discuss what's working and what's not regardless of the problem being addressed.

Selection Process

What do I have to do to participate?

- Step 1: Explore [Learning Lab](#)
- Step 2: Complete a [project listing form](#) by Friday, February 11, 2022.
- Step 3: Look for an email on or around February 18, 2022. Three organizations will be invited to meet with Catalyst:Ed start the scoping and matching process
- Step 4: Grants, between \$10,000 - \$20,000 of consulting services, will be announced in early March 2022.

Also, just by completing the project scope form, you have the opportunity to:

- Chat with a member of the Catalyst:Ed team for 30 minutes on anything! This could be to discuss capacity needs, seek thought partnership on current work, or other top-of-mind issues. Reach out to us anytime at si-k12@catalyst-ed.org
- Join a professional development opportunity led by adult and student facilitators from High Tech High's Graduate School of Education. This session, focused on embedding student voice into improvement work, will be a 2.5-hour session held on March 12, 2022 from 10 AM - 12:30 PM PT. You're welcome to bring up to four colleagues to this session. If you're unable to join the live event, no problem! We will record this session.



What are the selection criteria you are using to determine grantees?

When determining grantees, we will consider the following:

- A clear connection between the need identified and how it connects to continuous improvement practices you are currently using or hope to implement in the future
- Student demographics - specifically we are prioritizing organizations serving greater than 50 percent students of color and/or low-income students
- The organization's commitment to equity and antiracist practices as evidenced by the information submitted in the project listing form
- Ability to commit time and people to manage and support the provider throughout the project

Do grantees receive actual cash?

No, the grantees will receive between \$10,000 - \$20,000 in consulting services. The exact amount will be based on the project. Catalyst:Ed will pay the provider directly, once the organization has confirmed services are complete (i.e. key activities and deliverables).

Provider Selection Process**Do I select the provider or is one assigned to me?**

You will select the provider that is the best fit for your organization based on proposals received by vetted providers from our network. Check out our [project matching process](#) for details on our provider matching process.

If I am not a grantee and find my own funding, can I still work with Catalyst:Ed to match with a provider?

Of course, we would love that! Here are more details on our [project matching process](#).

Contract and Invoice Process**Contracting with an external provider at my organization can be tricky, can you help?**

Catalyst:Ed will contract with the provider directly on behalf of the organization. Prior to finalizing the contract, Catalyst:Ed will work with the provider and organization to ensure all parties agree to the terms and conditions of the contract. Prior to payment, Catalyst:Ed will work with the organization to ensure all services invoiced for were delivered and payment should be issued.

Additional Questions?

If you have a question not covered here, please email si-k12@catalyst-ed.org and we will get back to you within two business days.

