



**3 types of grants:** the program incorporates a tiered-evidence framework that supports larger awards for projects with the strongest evidence base as well as promising earlier-stage projects operated by grantees that are willing to undergo rigorous evaluation. Funds may be used for:

**1** **early-phase grants** for the development, implementation, and feasibility testing of an intervention or innovation which prior research suggests has promise, in order to determine whether the intervention can improve student academic outcomes (similar to Development grants under i3);

**2** **mid-phase grants** for implementation and rigorous evaluation of interventions that have been successfully implemented under early-phase grants or have met similar criteria for documenting program effectiveness (similar to Validation grants under i3); and

**3** **expansion and replication** of interventions or innovations that have been found to produce a sizable impact under a mid-phase grant or have met similar criteria for documenting program effectiveness (similar to Scale-up grants under i3).



**eligible applicants:** LEAs; SEAs; the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE); consortia of LEAs or SEAs; nonprofit organizations; or SEAs, LEAs, or the BIE in consortia with a nonprofit organization, a business, an educational service agency, or an institution of higher education.



**national reservation:** the Secretary may reserve **up to 5 percent** of program funds to provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices.



**set aside for rural areas:** **at least 25 percent** of the funds appropriated for the program must be used for awards to serve rural areas, contingent on receipt of enough applications of sufficient quality.



**matching requirements:** grantees must provide matching funds **equal to 10 percent** of their grant award (in cash or in-kind) from Federal, State, local, or private sources. The Secretary may waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis upon a showing of exceptional circumstances.



**evaluation:** all grantees must carry out a rigorous independent evaluation of the effectiveness of their project.

## COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM



**current funding**

**\$120 million**  
FY 2018

(known as Investing in Innovation, or i3, under ARRA)

**purpose:** *to support the creation, development, implementation, replication, and scaling up of evidence-based, field-initiated innovations designed to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and to subject the innovations to rigorous evaluation.*



## changes under ESSA:

changes from the predecessor program, i3, include expansion of the entities eligible to receive funds, a new rural set-aside, and more flexible requirements for matching funds.

