Request for Proposals

Quantum FAST Challenge: Strengthening California's Quantum Talent Pipeline and Innovation Ecosystem

I. Funding Opportunity and Background

The Quantum FAST (Funding for Accelerated Scale and Transformation) Challenge is a competitive grant opportunity that funds projects to support the growth of California's quantum industry and strengthen its talent pipeline. The Quantum FAST Challenge will be administered through a partnership between the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), the state's economic development office, and the California Education Learning Lab, a state-funded grantmaking program housed in the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and administered in partnership with the nonprofit Foundation for California Community Colleges ("The Foundation").

GO-Biz and Learning Lab intend to award up to $2.7 million in funding for grants between $50,000 and $500,000 over an 18–24 month implementation cycle. GO-Biz and Learning Lab will jointly lead the program, with Learning Lab performing the day-to-day management of the Quantum FAST Challenge. As part of this, Learning Lab's administrative partner, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, will serve as the point-of-contact/grants manager for all grant agreements made under this program and will ensure awardees satisfy the commitments specified in each agreement.

Background on the Need for the Quantum FAST Challenge

Quantum is recognized as a "Bet Sector" under the California Jobs First Economic Blueprint.

In 2021, Governor Newsom launched the California Jobs First Initiative, an economic development strategy to create good-paying, accessible jobs, and sustainable economic growth across thirteen regions encompassing the entire state. Each region has a designated convenor that coordinates economic and workforce development planning.

In 2025, the Governor released the Economic Blueprint, outlining strategic initiatives focused on achieving the California Jobs First objectives of creating, attracting, and increasing access to good-paying jobs. The California Economic Blueprint categorizes quantum as a "Bet sector": an emerging industry with significant investment or high strategic importance to the innovation ecosystem.

Quantum is Critical to Statewide Economic Development Goals

Since the Blueprint was released, California policymakers have identified quantum technologies—technologies that use the principles of quantum mechanics for computing, communication, and sensing—as a state economic priority. Under the California Jobs First Initiative, the state has taken steps to propel California's quantum industry and strengthen the workforce pipeline over the last year:

- In October 2025, Governor Newsom signed legislation and announced $4 million in funding to propel the state's quantum industry. Under the bill, GO-Biz will publish a strategic framework, aligned with the state's Economic Blueprint, helping to ensure the state continues to produce a strong talent pipeline, foster new research and development, and create opportunities for the technology of the future to grow in regions throughout the state.
- In November 2025, Governor Newsom announced the launch of Quantum California: a coordinated, statewide push to align efforts to maintain California's leadership in the technologies shaping the future, ensuring that the state's innovation ecosystem continues to power progress for the nation and the world. The Quantum California Initiative is led by GO-Biz and is intended to bring together universities, national labs, companies, and policymakers to strengthen California's position as a quantum hub.

These actions underscore the significant potential of quantum technologies to drive economic growth and generate good-paying jobs for Californians. Quantum technologies are advancing rapidly, fueling expansion of the quantum industry and spurring progress in research and innovation. These advancements bring quantum research closer to transformative industry applications in a number of sectors, including drug discovery, climate forecasting, materials science, communications and cryptography, high-precision sensing, and green technologies.

Achieving these potential applications will require continued innovation of quantum capabilities towards commercial viability, as well as ongoing experimentation to identify potential use cases for these technologies. Fostering collaboration across academic, research, and industry partners fuels California's innovation flywheel, strengthening the state's role as a leader in quantum breakthroughs that translate into real-world solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time.

A Quantum-Ready Workforce is Key to Maintaining Competitiveness

Advances in quantum technology and growth in the quantum industry are driving significant demand for workers with quantum-relevant skills and experience. California is at the center of this boom, with a 71% increase in job postings mentioning quantum skills

over the past three years, and a 31% increase in job postings over the past year alone. In step with this growth, California overwhelmingly led every other U.S. state in the total number of unique job postings mentioning quantum skills in 2025. These findings underscore industry demand for workers with quantum-relevant skills, and the critical need to equip California's workforce with the competencies needed to capture this economic opportunity.

Meeting the sector's current and future labor needs will require a quantum-ready workforce that possesses relevant knowledge and skills at all levels. This includes workers of all skill levels, from PhDs to certificate-holding technicians. Demand for quantum experts and PhD researchers remains high as they are essential for advancing quantum research and innovation; however, the industry's growth is dependent on expanding all areas of the workforce. In addition to quantum experts, employers are increasingly seeking workers with technician, bachelor's, or master's-level proficiencies to build, operate, use, and maintain quantum systems. As the quantum industry grows and technologies advance towards commercialization, a strong talent pipeline that meets the demand for qualified workers across all skill levels is critical to maintaining California's leadership in the advancement of quantum technology.

The Quantum FAST Challenge: Funding Priorities and Project Tracks

Funding Priorities and Tracks

The Quantum FAST Challenge seeks to support the development of the quantum industry and to maintain California's leadership in the sector by funding projects in two priority areas:

> (1) Education and workforce development projects that build the talent pipeline (especially at the certificate, undergraduate, and master's level) California's quantum technologies require, including technician-level specialists who can build and operate quantum systems; and workers who can develop real-world applications of quantum technologies; and
>
> (2) Applied use-case demonstrations that pair faculty researchers and students in California's public higher education segments with industry partners to produce documented, publishable results and/or intellectual property in areas including quantum science discovery, engineering, materials discovery, energy systems, logistics, and life sciences.

To advance these priorities, GO-Biz and Learning Lab invite proposals that fall into one or more of the following tracks:

1. **Expand access to quantum-relevant hands-on experiences**. Quantum employers identify experimental skills and hands-on experience with quantum technologies as key criteria for hiring. This track will prioritize projects that help build the quantum workforce (especially, but not exclusively, for quantum technicians, quantum engineers, and other quantum hardware roles) by expanding access to pedagogically-rich, hands-on experiences with quantum-relevant technologies. Projects can include (but are not limited to):

- developing and implementing innovative approaches for expanding access to high-quality laboratory activities involving quantum-relevant instruments (especially through cross-campus collaboration and resource-sharing);
- identifying in-demand laboratory and technical skills, and adapting existing curricula and lab activities to better develop those skills;
- building partnerships with local quantum employers to expand student access to quality internships and real-world experiences; or
- developing approaches for effectively leveraging technology and simulations to scale access to quantum-relevant hands-on experiences.

2. **Build entry points to the quantum workforce for learners in adjacent fields**. The growth of the quantum industry is creating demand for workers at all skill levels, including those with transferable technical skills, experience with classical systems operating alongside quantum technologies, and the ability to apply quantum technologies to real use cases. This track will support projects that strengthen the quantum workforce by creating entry points into quantum careers for learners in adjacent fields and pathways. It will support projects that enable learners in adjacent pathways (e.g., semiconductor and engineering technicians, software programmers) to understand how their skills and abilities can apply to roles in the quantum industry and acquire the additional knowledge they need to access those roles. It will also support projects that provide learners in fields that are likely to be impacted by quantum applications with knowledge to collaborate with quantum experts in the creation and deployment of quantum applications for their field. Projects could include (but are not limited to):
    - identifying where learners in adjacent fields have opportunities in the quantum industry and adapting or modifying existing curricula to include quantum-relevant skills and knowledge;
    - developing modules and learning materials that help students understand how skills they are developing are transferable to roles in quantum industry; or
    - developing and deploying curricula, modules, or courses that introduce learners in other fields to quantum technologies, so that they understand how these technologies could address challenges in their field or industry and are prepared to be early adopters of quantum applications.

3. **Advance quantum innovation, applications, and use-case demonstrations**. Use-case demonstrations are showing the potential for quantum technologies to offer solutions to challenges across a range of industries. This track aims to advance research and innovation leading to the development and deployment of quantum technology applications to solve real-world challenges. Funding under this track may be used to support faculty collaboration with industry in the development and testing of applied use-case demonstrations for quantum and quantum-enabled technology resulting in publishable results or intellectual property. To assist with developing the quantum workforce pipeline, projects should contain a pedagogical component and give undergraduate or master's students hands-on experience working with quantum-relevant processes or

technologies. Projects may leverage or advance current faculty research. Projects could include (but are not limited to):

- partnering with a biotechnology or pharmaceutical company to deploy quantum algorithms for chemical simulations;
- collaborating with the logistics sector to advance the use of quantum simulations for route optimization; or
- working with an energy company to experiment with deploying quantum sensing technology for environmental monitoring.

4. **Wildcard**. This track will support projects that strengthen and broaden the talent pipeline for California's quantum industry through approaches that fall outside Tracks 1–3. Examples include: (a) student engagement and community-building activities, such as establishing or expanding student quantum clubs that build a culture of student agency and inclusion around quantum, or sponsoring student hackathons on quantum-related topics; and (b) entrepreneurship and innovation activities, such as developing quantum start-up simulators. Activities that fit within Tracks 1–3 (for example, hands-on laboratory experiences or use-case demonstrations) should be proposed under those tracks.

Projects may include elements of multiple tracks. All applications will be assessed according to the same rubric and as part of a single application pool. Regardless of the track, please state in your proposal how the project will contribute to growing California's quantum-ready workforce, and which parts of the quantum workforce your project will target.

Available Funding Amounts

Note that the applicant's proposed budget should match the size and scope of the project. GO-Biz and Learning Lab will provide grants:

- **Up to $100,000** for projects that prototype curricula, modules, courses, learning materials, and pedagogical approaches at a single institution or at a limited level across multiple institutions.
- **Up to $250,000** for projects that implement and scale their approach across multiple institutions, or that lead to applied use-case demonstrations.
- **Up to $500,000** for projects that include multiple tracks and strong intersegmental collaboration.

Grants over $100,000 ($250,000 for projects applying under Track 3) must involve intersegmental collaboration with principal investigators or co-principal investigators (PIs/Co-PIs) from at least two of California's public higher education segments (University of California/California State University/California Community Colleges). This could, for example, include project implementation by a regional consortium of a California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges or a collaboration among University of California (UC) and CSU campuses. One institution will serve as the host institution and will be responsible for distributing grant funds. ***Robustness of the intersegmental collaboration will be a point of consideration in the evaluation of proposals for Tracks 1, 2, and 4 over $100,000 and in the evaluation of proposals for Track 3 over $250,000.***

Additional Funding Priorities

- **Industry Engagement**: The Quantum FAST Challenge seeks to advance greater collaboration among faculty, institutions of higher education, and the quantum industry in strengthening California's quantum ecosystem and expanding the quantum talent pipeline. To this end, applicants are encouraged to form cross-institutional and cross-sector partnerships with private industry stakeholders, relevant nonprofits, and workforce organizations. Applicants are also encouraged to secure at least a 25% industry match, based on the total amount of funding requested. The industry match may be either financial or in-kind, including donations of equipment and hardware, provision of additional internships, access to quantum computer time, or expanded collaboration in research or curriculum development. Projects receiving an in-kind match will be asked to provide a brief explanation in their proposal of how they established the value of the contribution.
- **Engagement with Local Stakeholders:** Projects are encouraged to engage with their regional Jobs First convenor where feasible to expand industry collaboration, facilitate coordination with regional economic development stakeholders, and identify points of alignment between their projects and other regional initiatives. GO-Biz and Learning Lab staff will assist projects in identifying and connecting with their regional Jobs First convenor.
- **Utilization of AI and Disclosure:** Project teams are allowed and encouraged, as appropriate, to engage with and employ AI and AI-driven tools as part of their projects. This may include using AI to help develop curricula, pedagogical tools, or learning materials, as well as developing uses of AI and AI tools to improve student learning and skills acquisition. Projects may also address points of convergence between quantum and AI with respect to either student skills development or development of quantum use cases and applications. Project teams employing AI and AI tools for student learning should explain in their proposals how they will ensure the quality of AI-generated materials and student interactions with AI-driven tools. Applicants that intend to provide GenAI as a deliverable or utilize GenAI, including GenAI from a third party, must abide by the GenAI disclosure featured in **Exhibit A** of this document. ***In addition, project teams must disclose any use of GenAI in the preparation of their application and briefly describe how and to what extent they used GenAI to help produce their proposal.***

II. Application Requirements

Eligibility

To apply for a Quantum FAST Challenge Grant, projects must:

1. Be led by a faculty member or administrator of a UC, CSU, or California Community College. Faculty from private, nonprofit institutions of higher education may participate in project teams, but projects must be led by faculty

or administrators from one of the three segments of California public higher education.
2. Include at least two letters of recommendation. One of these letters must be from the employer the applicant reports to. The second letter may, but is not required to be, from an industry partner or regional economic development organization.
3. Align with the program's funding tracks and priorities.
4. Include all required material outlined in this RFP in accordance with relevant submission dates.
5. For projects applying under tracks 1, 2, and 4, strengthen California's quantum talent pipeline at the certificate, undergraduate, or master's level.

Application Process

The grant application process includes three major components:

1. Statement of Intent (includes eligibility acknowledgement, applicant information, proposed project track, a brief project description, team member information, and institutional information);
2. Proposal and Letters of Recommendation; and
3. A written response to reviewer questions, if any. During the review period, proposal reviewers may pose written clarifying questions about a proposal. If they do, applicants will be notified and given an opportunity to respond in writing. (No action is needed from applicants who do not receive questions).

Applications will be accepted through Submittable via Learning Lab's Grant Application Portal. All applicants must submit a Statement of Intent by 5:00PM PT on October 1, 2026. Learning Lab will contact applicants if there are eligibility or RFP alignment concerns at this stage. If there are no eligibility issues, applicants may proceed to proposal submission.

Timeline

Application Stage	**Date**
Release of Request for Proposals	July 20, 2026
Technical Assistance Webinar #1	July 28, 2026, 11:00AM PT
Technical Assistance Webinar #2	September 11, 2026, Noon PT
Statement of Intent DUE	October 1, 2026, 5:00PM PT
Full Proposal DUE	October 20, 2026, 5:00PM PT
Review Period	Mid to late November, 2026
Award Decisions	November 18-20, 2026
Notification of Awards	TBD/Late November 2026

Grant Agreement Negotiation and Finalization	January 29, 2027
Quantum FAST Projects Commence	February 1, 2027

III. Application Components

All applicants must submit the following by the deadlines noted in this RFP: (1) a Statement of Intent (due October 1, 2026), (2) a full proposal consisting of a project summary and detailed project proposal, together with letters of recommendation (due October 20, 2026).

Statement of Intent (Due: October 1, 2026)

All applicants for the Quantum FAST Challenge must file a Statement of Intent that identifies the lead institution, partnering institutions (if applicable), industry partners, Principal Investigator (PI) and any Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) and their relevant expertise, proposed project track(s), and brief project information. Statements of Intent must be submitted to the Learning Lab Grant Application Portal by 5:00PM PT on October 1, 2026. **Please check Learning Lab's Quantum FAST Challenge website starting on August 10, 2026 for links and instructions on how to file the Statement of Intent.**

Full Proposal (Due: October 20, 2026)

Full proposals must include two components: (A) a project summary that provides an overview of the proposal's main elements, and (B) a detailed project proposal no longer than eight pages (not including the project budget and other supporting materials). Full proposals must also be accompanied by at least two letters of recommendation. For guidance on the required letters of recommendation, consult the Application Questions: Proposal Process section of the RFP FAQs.

A. Project Summary:

- **Project Title:** Applicants must develop a short title (less than 10 words) for their proposed project. This title should be used in all related documents of the proposal.
- **Project Track:** Please confirm which of the four tracks your project falls under.
- **Project Abstract:** Please provide a short project abstract (150-200 words) and indicate what challenge(s) in the quantum workforce pipeline or what quantum technology use case your project intends to address.
- **Estimated Project Impact:** Please indicate the number of students and/or institutions/faculty/instructors/TAs that will be directly impacted by project activities during the project period. Please share the basis of the calculation.
- **Key Equipment, Tools, and Practices:** Please list the laboratory equipment, technology tools and platforms, and/or pedagogical practices your project will be using.

- **What is the state of quantum-relevant talent development or quantum-related research at your institution?** Please provide a brief description of how your institution, department, and/or school is currently supporting the quantum talent pipeline. Are there existing activities or initiatives to improve student preparation for entry into the quantum workforce or for further study in quantum fields? What is the current state of engagement with quantum industry? If applying under Track 3, please provide a brief description of how your institution and department are engaging in research and development relevant to quantum technologies and applications.

B. Detailed Project Proposal:

The detailed project proposal should be a maximum of eight total pages. It should use Arial 11 font, single spacing, and no less than 0.5" margins. These formatting requirements apply to the proposal narrative only; the Statement of Intent and Project Summary Information are completed through the Grant Portal and are not subject to them. Describe succinctly and clearly in eight pages the proposed project, responding to the prompts identified in the section below. Please address questions 1–12 in five pages and use the remaining three pages to address questions 13, 14, and 15. Applicants may address the question prompts within the context of a project narrative rather than responding to them individually.

The budget (question 16), optional logic model (question 17), CVs for the project team, and letters of recommendation will be submitted as separate documents that will not count against the page limit. Applicants should consult the Quantum FAST webpage for guidance in crafting a strong project proposal (see the "Proposal Tips" tab).

As a reminder, assets created through Quantum FAST grants will be expected to be made available as Open Educational Resources (OER) as appropriate (unless otherwise exempted by Learning Lab; see Section V below for further details), the impact of which can be discussed in questions 9, 10, or 11.

1. **Project plan:** Please describe what you plan to build, implement, or research within 18–24 months with the total requested funding amount for the project.
2. **Need:** What specific challenge(s) in the quantum talent pipeline and/or what specific quantum workforce need(s) does your project address? Please briefly describe how you identified this challenge and provide evidence to convey the significance of this issue. If applying under Track 3, describe the real-world problem or challenge your proposed use-case demonstration will help to address.
3. **Approach:** How will your project help to solve the challenges identified in question 2 (above) and strengthen the quantum talent pipeline or advance quantum innovation and applications? As appropriate, please be specific as to the in-demand skills, knowledge, or experience that your project will provide, or describe how your project will improve student engagement in quantum or enable students to better acquire knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for the

quantum workforce. If applying under Track 3, please explain how your project leverages quantum technology to help address the use case you identified, and how the proposed use of quantum technology improves on what current technology can produce.

4. **Institutional background:** Describe the qualifications of your institution and partner organizations to execute this project. What is your institution's (and partners') track record in placing students into the quantum industry or into quantum-related pathways? If applying under Track 3, what is your institution's (and partners') track record in quantum research and in developing and testing applications of quantum technology?

5. **Industry and Jobs First convener collaboration:** Describe how you are collaborating with the quantum industry in this project. Who are your industry partners? Additionally, describe ongoing or planned engagement with your regional Jobs First regional convenor. How will industry partners and regional stakeholders inform this project so that it can best meet quantum workforce talent needs or develop an innovative quantum technology use case?

6. **Industry match:** If the applicant has secured a match, please describe your project's industry match, discuss how the match contributes to the project, and (if receiving an in-kind match) briefly explain how you establish a valuation for in-kind contributions. If the applicant has not secured a match, please note this, as well as any plans to secure matching funds should they receive an award under the Quantum FAST Challenge.

7. **Additional non-industry resources:** Do you have other resources from non-industry partners to help you support the proposed work? (Projects are encouraged to seek or leverage additional funding from institutional, state, and federal sources.)

8. **Use of funds:** How will grant funds be used? Please provide a broad overview of anticipated expense categories; detailed line items should be reserved for the budget (question 16).

9. **Reach and impact:** Describe whom your project will serve (e.g. faculty, students, industry, other stakeholders) and how many individuals are expected to be directly supported through your project. Detail the potential for your project to broaden the quantum workforce pipeline, especially for underrepresented and underserved student populations. If applying under Track 3, what is the potential for your proposed use-case demonstration to drive research into the development of quantum technology applications?

10. **Dissemination:** How will you maximize your project's impact and facilitate wider uptake of curricula, modules, learning materials, or pedagogical approaches developed with Quantum FAST funding? If applying under Track 3, how will you disseminate the results/findings from your use-case demonstration, especially for industry stakeholders and audiences?

11. **Long-term continuity:** Outline your vision for sustaining this project beyond the grant performance period. What is the potential roadmap for this project over the short, medium, and long term? Detail additional funding sources that could sustain this work, including from federal sources.

12. **Evaluation and outcome metrics:** Propose metrics that your team will use to assess and evaluate your project's success once your project is operational. How will you establish that your project improved student learning or equipped students with in-demand knowledge, skills, and abilities? How will you establish that it helped to meet quantum industry talent needs or otherwise strengthen the quantum workforce pipeline? If applying under Track 3, how will you test whether your proposed application of quantum technology successfully helps address a real-world use?

13. **Deliverables:** Please provide a list of recipient-generated deliverables related to this project.

14. **Team qualifications:** Please identify the primary team members that will be responsible for executing this project. Additionally, please submit CVs (no more than two pages each) for the PI(s), Co-PIs, and other key project personnel as a separate attachment. CVs will not count toward the page limit.

15. **References:** As appropriate, please provide any references used in the formation of this proposal as numbered endnotes.

16. **Budget (separate file):** Please provide a detailed proposed budget using the template provided. Budget proposals should include direct costs, as well as indirect costs (see below, Section V, Terms of Acceptance). This will be submitted as a separate file and will not be included in the proposal page limit. (**Note**: Applicants are required to use Learning Lab's budget template and may be disqualified if they use another template.) For guidance, consult the Budget section of the RFP FAQs. A sample budget will be made available in July, prior to GO-Biz and Learning Lab's first Quantum FAST webinar. The template, RFP FAQs, and sample budget, when available, may be found under the "Resources" tab .

17. **Logic model (optional but encouraged; separate file):** Provide a logic model (see the "Resources" tab for a template and sample) to accompany your proposal if you feel it would be helpful to understand your project. This may be submitted as a separate exhibit and will not be included in the page limit.

Note on Budget and Expenses

Projects may use Quantum FAST funds for personnel, materials and supplies (including software), equipment, consultants, and travel, as well as other direct costs. There is no restriction on what proportion of project funding may go to any expense category. Project budgets should also account for the costs of required program participation, including periodic check-ins, cohort convenings, and oversight and reporting to GO-Biz and Learning Lab. The proposal should put forward a strong justification for why the proposed budget is the best use of funds to advance the project's strategy for

improving teaching and learning related to quantum technologies or for developing and testing the proposed quantum technology use-case demonstration.

IV. Selection Process

A. Selection Process

Quantum FAST proposals will be scored by GO-Biz and Learning Lab according to a published rubric. GO-Biz and GovOps leadership will make final award decisions based on these evaluations. GO-Biz and GovOps leadership may also take into account the distribution of awards across institutions, academic disciplines, and geographic regions, with the goal of funding a portfolio of projects that reflects the objectives of this RFP and the Jobs First Initiative.

Awards and final award amounts are contingent on successful negotiation of a grant agreement between GO-Biz and Learning Lab and selected applicants.

B. Scoring Rubric

Submitted proposals will be assessed for eligibility and evaluated using a rubric and scoring system. Scoring will factor into the decision to make an award, considered alongside the portfolio considerations described in the Selection Process section above. Learning Lab and GO-Biz may use AI tools to support administrative aspects of the review process; however, all proposals will be evaluated, rated, and scored by human reviewers. The scoring rubric and a more detailed description of Learning Lab and GO-Biz's AI use are available on the Quantum FAST Challenge webpage.

V. Terms of Award Acceptance

Items below will be included as standard terms in the acceptance of a grant/grant agreement. Before applying, applicants should review the items below to inform preparation of the proposal.

The awarded "lead" institution will enter into a grant agreement with the Foundation for California Community Colleges, which is under contract with GovOps to administer the Learning Lab program. Learning Lab personnel will administer the agreement, which will address project implementation, including the following:

- **Cohort collaboration**. Awardees will become part of a Quantum FAST Cohort. This cohort will provide an opportunity for learning and sharing across projects and facilitate the cross-institutional and cross-segmental connections necessary to expand the quantum talent pipeline and build a more quantum-ready workforce. Awardees will be expected to share ideas, approaches, experiences, findings, and data, as appropriate. The Quantum FAST Cohort will be invited to meet periodically to share project progress, seek out potential efficiencies or economies of scale across projects, reflect on the latest developments in the field, and provide advice and support to each other. Awardees will also be invited to Learning Lab intersegmental grantee convenings and to GO-Biz events and convenings that may include policymakers and other stakeholders. Learning

Lab and GO-Biz staff may encourage specific project teams to collaborate, share resources, and learn from one another.

- **Periodic virtual check-ins with GO-Biz and Learning Lab teams.** These check-ins are required and will be timed at the launch of the project, to follow submission of the bi-annual reports (see below), and at the close of project/post-evaluation. Awarded teams will be expected to seek technical assistance from the Learning Lab and/or GO-Biz staff as questions or issues arise during the course of project implementation.
- **Indirect costs**. An indirect cost recovery rate of 10% shall apply; for the University of California, General, Automobile, and Employment Liability (GAEL), University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) costs, and Technology Infrastructure Fees (TIF) must be included in the 10% indirect cost rate. For all grants, reasonable costs for budget or administrative support may be included as a direct cost, as appropriate. Combined direct and indirect costs cannot exceed the award amount. Consequently, for a project awarded a $250,000 grant, the total IDC cannot exceed $22,727 (i.e., 10% of total direct costs of $227,273, with indirect and direct costs totaling $250,000).
- **Budget rules and flexibility**. Your proposal will contain a detailed proposed budget. If your project is selected for award, your proposed budget will be negotiated as a final budget prior to the signing of the grant agreement. The negotiation will be an opportunity for the project team to refine the budget, as well as for Learning Lab to reflect recommendations from reviewers and GO-Biz leadership on the budget. Grant agreements will have some budget flexibility; however, prior approval will be required for budget changes between approved budget categories above negotiated thresholds, and for certain activities such as travel and hosted convenings.

  Please note: Quantum FAST funds may be used to pay students (stipends or hourly rates based on work performed on the grant project), pay related student fees, and fund student participation incentives (e.g., gift cards or bookstore vouchers for participation in responding to a survey); however, Quantum FAST funds may NOT be used to cover student tuition (undergraduate or graduate) or student housing.
- **OER agreement.** Institutions must agree to terms and conditions that require courses and course series, technology/platforms, and other resources enabled or developed with Quantum FAST funds to be available as open educational resources, as defined through the grant agreement, unless otherwise exempted. Please consult Learning Lab's OER Guidance document and the OER and IRB section of the RFP FAQs.
- **Bi-annual reporting and invoicing**. The awardee must use Learning Lab templates for both reporting and invoicing. Invoices will only be paid upon submission of a written report. Reporting includes project participation data.

- **Receipt of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval/exemptions**, as necessary. IRB approval is necessary whenever research is being conducted with human subjects, including any research where you are surveying, interviewing, or collecting identified data from students or faculty and must be done before any data collection takes place. Please make sure you have built adequate time into your timeline for the IRB approval or exemption process. It is highly recommended that you begin the process as soon as possible.
- **Evaluation of project** at project closeout based on metrics included in each agreement. Applicants will work with GO-Biz and Learning Lab to finalize evaluation metrics based on feedback to applicant responses to question 12 of the full proposal (see section IV above). Applicants agree to use Learning Lab's evaluation template.
- **Acknowledgment of Learning Lab/GO-Biz funding** in public-facing project materials.
- **Attestation of compliance** with state and federal data privacy and security laws.

EXHIBIT A: GenAI Disclosure

The State of California seeks to realize the potential benefits of GenAI, through the development and deployment of GenAI tools, while balancing the risks of these new technologies.

Applicants must notify the State in writing if it: (1) intends to provide GenAI as a deliverable to the State; or (2), intends to utilize GenAI, including GenAI from third parties, to complete all or a portion of any deliverable that materially impacts: (i) functionality of a State system, (ii) risk to the State, or (iii) performance associated with this agreement. For avoidance of doubt, the term "materially impacts" shall have the meaning set forth in State Administrative Manual (SAM) § 4986.2 Definitions for GenAI.

Failure to report GenAI to the State may result in disqualification. The State reserves the right to seek any and all relief to which it may be entitled to as a result of such non-disclosure.

Upon notification by an applicant of GenAI as required, the State reserves the right to incorporate GenAI Special Provisions into the final grant agreement or reject offers that present an unacceptable level of risk to the State.

Government Code §11549.64 defines "Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)" as an artificial intelligence system that can generate derived synthetic content, including text, images, video, and audio that emulates the structure and characteristics of the system's training data.