QUANTUM CALIFORNIA

QUANTUM FAST CHALLENGE

LEARNING LAB CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Quantum FAST Challenge

Technical Assistance Webinar #2

The Quantum FAST Challenge

- Up to $2.7 million in funding, with individual awards ranging from $50,000 to $500,000, to support projects over an 18–24 month implementation cycle.
- Quantum FAST will support projects in two priority areas:
  - Projects that expand California's quantum talent pipeline; and
  - Applied use-case demonstrations of quantum technologies that pair faculty researchers with industry partners.

Milestones and Timeline

- **Statement of Intent Due**: **October 1, 2026, 5:00PM PT**
- **Full Proposal Due**: **October 20, 2026, 5:00PM PT**
- **Notification of Awards**: Late November 2026
- **Projects Commence**: February 1, 2027

Statement of Intent

- **The Statement of Intent is required.**
- Application Grant Portal is OPEN.
- Applicants will hear within a few business days if they can proceed to the Full Proposal, or if there are eligibility issues that need to be resolved.

Full Proposal

- Submission Portal for Full Proposals will open October 2
- The Full Proposal will include:
  - Summary information
  - The detailed project proposal. Maximum 8 pages. Applicants may address the proposal question prompts in the context of a project narrative, rather than responding to them individually.
  - Budget, CVs for project team, optional logic model, and at least two letters of recommendation

Proposal Tips
(check the Quantum FAST webpage for full list of tips)

Proposal Tips

✓ Be ambitious but **realistic**.

✓ Use **plain language**.

✓ Use **asset-based language** to describe your student/faculty populations.

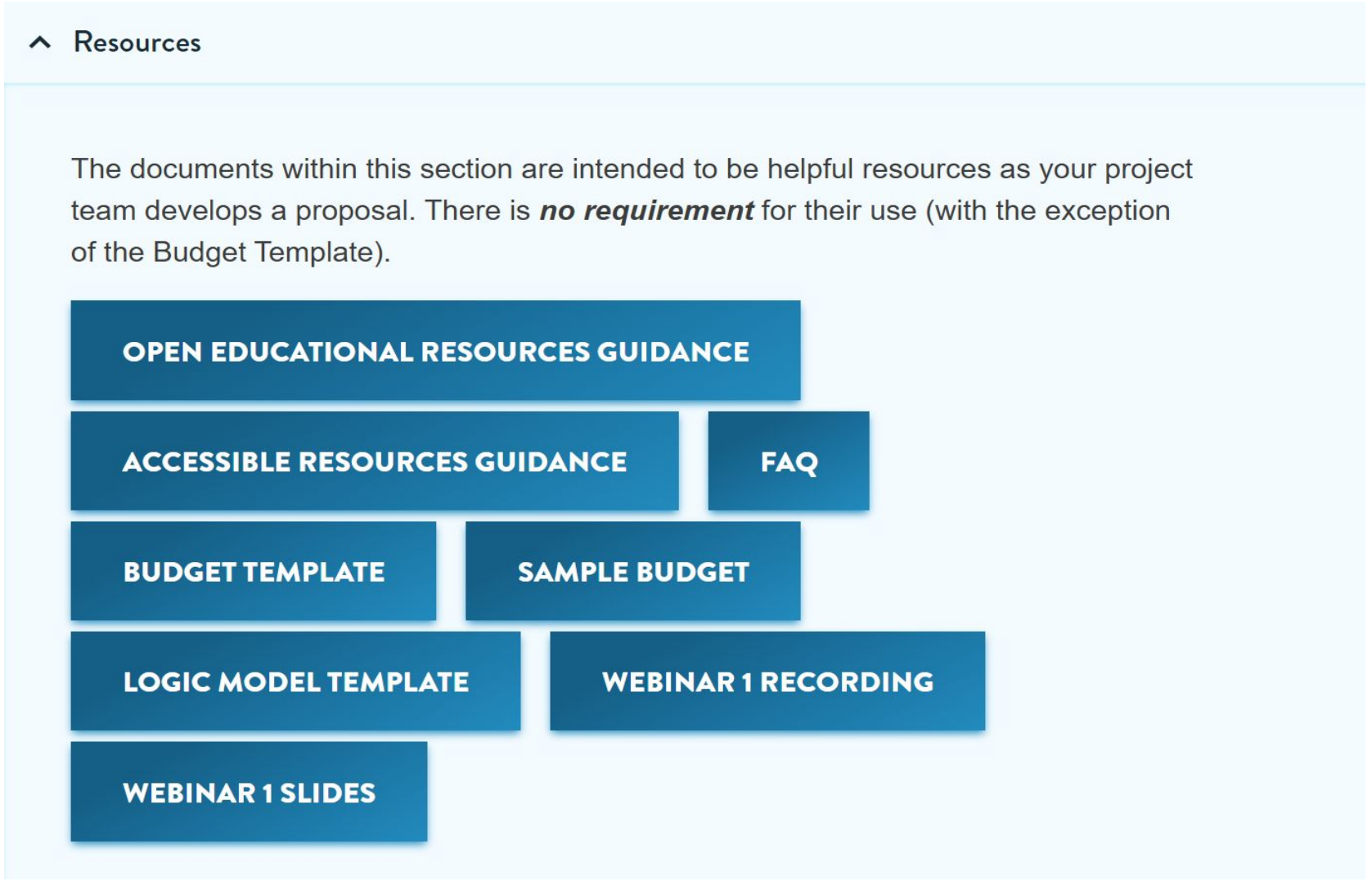
✓ Be specific about your goals and the **outcomes and impact** you are hoping to achieve with the project. Explain how your approach may lead to fulfilling those goals and outcomes.

✓ Be specific about how you will **assess whether you achieved your intended outcomes** and how you will **evaluate your project's impact**, including what metrics you will use.

✓ Be specific about **how the project will work in practice**.

✓ Highlight the **research base that supports your proposed work**. Do not take for granted the same knowledge level for all proposal evaluators.

Resources


Resources
The documents within this section are intended to be helpful resources as your project team develops a proposal. There is ***no requirement*** for their use (with the exception of the Budget Template).
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES GUIDANCE
ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES GUIDANCE
FAQ
BUDGET TEMPLATE
SAMPLE BUDGET
LOGIC MODEL TEMPLATE
WEBINAR 1 RECORDING
WEBINAR 1 SLIDES

Budget Template

- Applicants are required to use the Learning Lab budget template.
- The maximum indirect cost recovery rate for Quantum FAST projects is 10%.
- The project budget should include a strong justification for all expenses (see the Sample Budget in the Resource section for examples).

Industry and Jobs First Engagement

- Applicants are encouraged to form cross-sector partnerships with private industry, relevant nonprofits, and workforce organizations.
- Applicants are 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.
- Applicants are also encouraged to engage with their Jobs First regional convener.

Quantum FAST Networking Sheet

- Looking for Quantum FAST collaborators?
- We've created a Networking Sheet to help applicants identify potential partners, including industry and workforce development collaborators.
- If you would like to share your information with others, please use the Networking Sign-Up Form to include your information in the Networking Sheet.

Selection Process

- Proposals will be scored by GO-Biz staff and outside expert reviewers.
- Reviewers may pose brief clarifying questions to project teams. Project teams will have 48-to-72 hours to respond to any questions in writing.
- GO-Biz and Government Operations Agency leadership will make final award decisions based on these evaluations.

Common Questions

- Can we apply for multiple tracks?
- Can an institution submit multiple proposals?
- What does Quantum FAST mean by an industry partner?
- Is an industry match required?
- Can project teams collaborate with private, nonprofit institutions? From out-of-state institutions?
- Can industry and nonprofit partners collaborate with multiple projects?
- Who should my letters of recommendation be from?

Events

- October 15-16 @UCLA
- Contact jaimee.galvan@calearninglab.org for invitation

Q & A

- Please also see our FAQs on the Quantum FAST webpage!

Thank you!

Website: https://calearninglab.org/grant/quantum-fast/

Email: quantumca@calearninglab.org

Sign up for updates: Quantum FAST mailing list