

# Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund

Summary Document

October 2009

Note: These slides are intended as guidance only. Please refer to the official Notice in the *Federal Register*.

# Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund Summary

## Purpose

To provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement, in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on:

- Improving student achievement or student growth for high-need students
- Promoting school readiness, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, and improving teacher and school leader effectiveness

## Funding

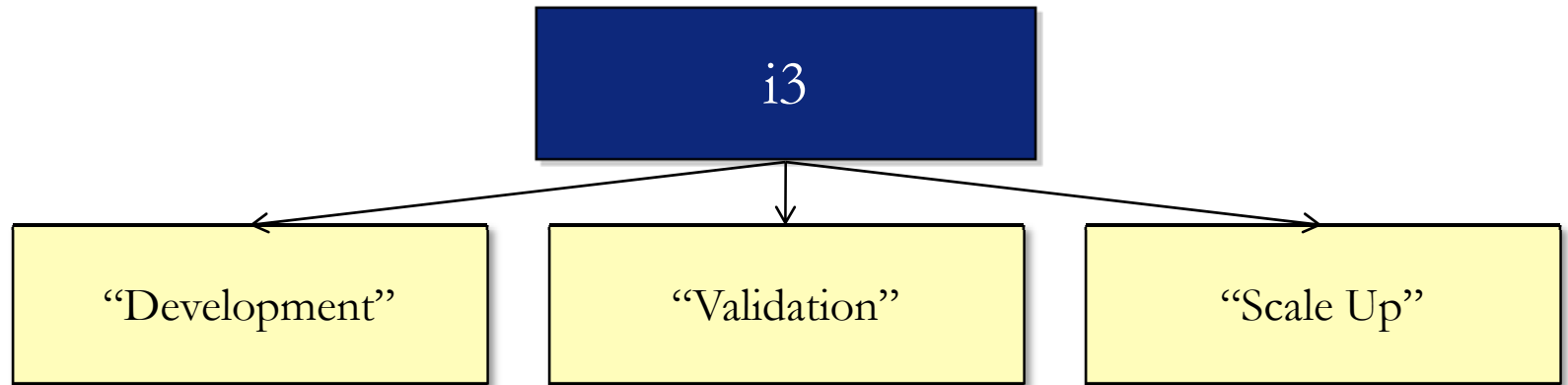
\$650 million to be obligated by September 30, 2010

## Applicants

Eligible applicants are:

- (1) Local education agencies (LEAs)
- (2) Nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools

# Types of Awards Available Under i3



**Estimated  
Funding  
Available**

Up to \$5MM/award

Up to \$30MM/award

Up to \$50MM/award

**Evidence  
Required**

Reasonable research-based findings or theories

Moderate – either high internal validity and medium external validity, or vice versa

Strong – both high internal validity and high external validity

**Scaling  
Required**

Further develop and scale

Able to be scaled to the regional or state level

Able to be scaled to the national, regional, or state level

# Key Terms

## ***Notice***

The i3 Notice of Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria includes the proposed eligibility criteria, priorities, and selection criteria. It will be open for 30 days of public comment after which the Department of Education will consider and respond to comments before publishing the final Notice in the *Federal Register*.

## ***Eligibility Criteria***

The eligibility criteria, which may be statutory or proposed in the Notice, determine whether an applicant can receive a grant.

## ***Priorities***

The priorities are the areas of focus to which an applicant must apply. These include absolute priorities, which the applicant must address, and competitive preference priorities, which the applicant may address to improve the quality of an application.

## ***Selection Criteria***

A panel of peer reviewers will judge the quality of an application on the extent to which it addresses the selection criteria established in the final Notice published in the *Federal Register*.

# Proposed i3 Eligibility Criteria and Grant Requirements

## Eligible Organizations

(Based on historical success closing achievement gaps and improving academic achievement)

- LEAs
- Non-profits, in partnership with LEAs or consortium of schools

**MUST**

- Write an application for one grant type
- Demonstrate 20% private sector matching funding or request reduced matching level
- Conduct an independent program evaluation
- Cooperate with technical assistance
- Share broadly the results of any evaluations

# Proposed i3 Priorities

Improve Achievement  
for High-Need  
Students

*Required for  
all applications*



Support Effective Teachers  
and School Leaders

Improve the  
Use of Data

Complement the  
Implementation of High  
Standards and High-Quality  
Assessments

Turn Around Persistently Low-  
Performing Schools, Whole-  
School Reform, and Targeted  
Approaches to Reform

*Must address one or more  
(Absolute Priority)*



Improve Early  
Learning Outcomes

Support College  
Access and Success

Address the Unique  
Learning Needs of Students  
with Disabilities and Limited  
English Proficient Students

Serve Schools in  
Rural LEAs

*May address one or more  
(Competitive Preference)*

# Proposed i3 Selection Criteria

Need for the Project and  
Quality of the Project Design

Strength of Research, Significance of  
Effect, and Magnitude of Effect

Experience of  
the Applicant

Quality of the  
Project Evaluation

Strategy and Capacity to Scale or  
to Further Develop and Scale

Sustainability

Quality of the Management  
Plan and Personnel

## Notes

- The final Notice, which the Department will publish in the *Federal Register* in late winter/early spring of 2010, will include the specific point value of each criteria
- A panel of peer reviewers will judge applications by allocating points in each of the categories based on how well an application addresses the criteria