

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of the allocation of grants to the 15 consortia participating in the Grow Your Own Teacher Education (GYO) Initiative. The goal of the GYO Initiative is to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and paraeducators statewide to become effective teachers in: 1) hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students.

The GYO Act was passed in 2004 and received its first wave of funding in fiscal year 2006 from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Since 2006, 16 consortia in communities across the state have provided support to local community members who desire to become teachers in hard-to-staff neighborhood schools. In FY2011 the GYO program was transferred to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The appropriation amount for the GYO program in FY2012 is the same as FY2011, \$2.5 million. The Peoria GYO program located at Bradley University did not renew their application in FY2012.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve \$2.5 million for the GYO program including \$2.15 to 15 GYO consortia for fiscal year 2012 as detailed in Table 1.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATION**

Background

This item requests approval of the allocation of grants to the 15 consortia participating in the Grow Your Own Teacher Education (GYO) Initiative. The goal of the GYO Initiative is to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and paraeducators statewide to become effective teachers 1) in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) in hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students.

The GYO Act was passed in 2004 and received its first wave of funding in fiscal year 2006 from the ISBE. Since 2006, consortia in communities across the state have provided support to local community members who desire to become teachers in hard-to-staff neighborhood schools. Consortia are comprised of community organizations, school districts, community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education.

In FY2011 the GYO program was transferred to the IBHE. There are currently 307 active teacher candidates involved in the GYO program. Candidates may receive up to \$25,000 for college expenses in the form of loans which are forgiven if a graduate completes five years of service in a qualifying school. Candidates also may receive transportation assistance, tutoring, technology assistance and, if necessary, child care support. The consortia and their members are permitted to use grant funds to offset their costs of providing services to the teacher candidates.

According to the latest evaluation report compiled by Philliber Research Associates, which was contracted by the ISBE to evaluate the GYO Initiative, the majority of teacher candidates are female, members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and speak English at home. Teacher candidates have an average age of 39 years. Half of the teacher candidates have an annual household income of less than \$30,000. Most teacher candidates are employed full time.

FY11 Goals and Accomplishments

The ultimate goal of this grant project is to increase student achievement and ensure student success in some of our state's neediest schools. During the past three years, the IBHE developed and refined the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. One of the major findings in the State during the development of the *Public Agenda* was that one Illinois is affluent, well education, and economically dynamic with a seemingly bright future. The other Illinois struggles to make ends meet, lags in educational attainment, and is economically stagnant. Separating these two states is a prosperity gap that is wide and growing. As a result, the IBHE is partnering with the GYO Initiative as one approach to addressing this prosperity gap especially in targeted schools.

During the past year, staff have designed and developed an online system to make it easier for consortia to complete a renewal application in FY2012. The new system makes it easier to submit important application information to the IBHE. A budget document was created that automatically calculates many of the tedious mathematical formulas used to compute accurate forgivable loans. A GYO requirement for FY2012 will be an end-of-the-year independent audit that will include a comparison of grant expenditures. All IBHE grant programs have this requirement which helps ensure accountability and transparency within IBHE grant programs.

FY2012 Awards Process

A renewal application was released on May 23, 2011. In order to get a better understanding of how the consortia function, several new requirements were added to the FY2012 renewal application. Consortia were asked to: describe their selection/admissions process and the role of each consortia member in this process; provide information on goals they have set for the number of new students their consortia is planning to recruit for the 2011-2012; provide the number of candidates that will graduate and receive certification; briefly describe their procedures for counseling out students; and describe how they plan to evaluate their projects with a description of data analysis methods, and timelines for data collection and analysis. A needs assessment that describes projected teacher vacancies in their partner districts was requested as well. Fifteen of the 16 consortia funded in FY2011 completed a renewal application.

The grant funds from the one consortium that elected not to renew will be reallocated to the remaining 15 consortia based on the highest needs of the remaining consortia.

Evaluation in FY12

In addition to making grants to the GYO consortia, ISBE has annually provided support for a statewide GYO Initiative Coordinator and an external program evaluator. The primary focus for the GYO Initiative Coordinator will be to provide technical assistance to each of the consortia to aid them in locating and securing new sources of non-state funding. The IBHE will continue past ISBE practice by contracting with a GYO Coordinator and an external program evaluator (a statutory mandate). IBHE staff is waiting on final evaluation reports from FY2011 to help guide policy changes and improvements to the GYO program for FY2012.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the fiscal year 2012 Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative Grants as described above. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to make pro rata adjustments to consortia grant awards in the event that appropriated funds are reduced or unavailable. The Executive Director is authorized to re-allocate funds between consortia as well.

Table 1
Illinois Board of Higher Education
FY2012 - Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative Allocation

	<u>Consortia/Institution(s)</u>	<u>Targeted School Districts</u>	<u>Recommend Award Amount</u>
1	Chicago State University	Scott Joplin, Clara Barton, Richard Oglesby, Chicago International Longwood Academy	\$153,425
2	East St. Louis District 189 - SIU Edwardsville, S-western Illinois College	Lincoln Middle School, East St. Louis Senior, Mason/Clark Middle School, Alternative	\$107,641
3	Focus of Southern Illinois - SIU Carbondale, Shawnee Comm. College	17 schools located in several school districts in Southern Illinois	\$146,565
4	Governors State University	Cook County, Crete-Monee, Dolton/Riverside, Harvey, Patton	\$144,630
5	Greenville College	Alton, East Elem., Eunice Smith, Gilson Brown, Lewis & Clard, Lovejoy, North and West Elem.	\$72,195
6	Hands That Help - National Louis University, Rockford Valley College	50 Schools in the Rockford School District #205	\$149,388
7	Illinois State University	Rosario Castellanos, Eli Whitney, Madero, Florence Price, Jackie Robinson, Ariel	\$157,463
8	NEIU - Maestros sin Fronteras	Ames, Avondale, Chase, Darwin, Funston, Kelvyn Park, McAuliffe, Monroe, Mozart, Schneider	\$157,463
9	NEIU - Nuevo Generacion	Ames, Avondale, Chase, Darwin, Funston, Kelvyn Park, McAuliffe, Monroe, Mozart, Schneider	\$149,366
10	NEIU - NLawndale Action Now	North Lawndale, Matthew Henson, Hertzl, Penn	\$153,425
11	NEIU - Southwest Organizing Project	Everhart, Morrill Math/Science, Talman, Marquette	\$157,446
12	NEIU - Organization of the Northeast	Gale Math and Science Academy, Graeme, Daniel Boone, Goudy	\$149,388
13	Springfield District 186 - U of I at Springfield, Lincoln Land Community College	37 schools in the Springfield School District #186	\$157,505
14	Western Illinois University	19 schools in the Moline District # 40 and 14 schools in the Rockford District # 41	\$149,388
15	Youth Connection Charter School - Chicago State University	22 schools in the Chicago Public Schools district # 299	\$149,388
	Total Grants:		\$2,154,676

