

Literacy Innovation for Education (LIFE) Initiative **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. *What is the LIFE initiative?*

The Literacy Innovation for Education or LIFE Initiative is a University of South Florida College of Education effort that encourages the use of innovative approaches to help struggling readers. It provides matching funds for educators who seek to use innovative programs or materials in K-12 literacy remediation. Funding for LIFE is provided by a variety of public and private sources who believe in the importance of successfully teaching reading to the approximately 40% of K-12 students who currently read below grade level.

2. *Who can apply for a matching grant?*

Any educator currently employed in an elementary, middle or high school in the United States may apply.

3. *What types of projects are typically funded?*

Projects that make use of an innovative method to improve the reading skills of struggling readers will be considered. In addition, projects where a reliable pre and post-intervention measurement will be used are preferred.

4. *In the event of success, can grant recipients apply for a second matching grant to continue the project?*

Yes. A successful applicant may receive a matching grant for the continuation of an effective program.

5. *How long is the approval period for applications?*

The LIFE team will notify applicants of its decision in 60 – 90 days from receipt of a fully completed application.

6. *Can educators working with special education students or ELL/ESL students apply?*

Yes.

7. *Can educators working with adults apply?*

While K-12 is the primary focus of the LIFE initiative, we will make exceptions in special cases.

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