FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
RFP for the Expansion & Adoption Initiative
October 6, 2022

Based on questions and feedback received to date from interested participants, Credential As You Go has created the following FAQ document. Please feel free to reach out to us at apply@credentialasyougo.org **if you have additional questions or need more information.**

1. **Why should I participate in the Credential As You Go Expansion & Adoption Initiative? What are the benefits of participation?** Participating states, institutions and organizations will have the opportunity to learn from their peers who are engaged in incremental credentialing work, and leverage content, policies, tools and practices that have emerged from the work already though this national effort. They will receive technical assistance and professional development from the Credential As You Go team of experts, as well as additional tools and resources to use to help develop incremental credentials. Participants will also be part of a network of other entities building incremental credentials, which will provide opportunities to learn from each other and hear about different solutions.

2. **My institution is already involved in curricular innovation work. Are we precluded from applying?** No—we encourage institutions at all levels of the innovation spectrum to join us. We're looking to build a network through which institutions and states can learn from one another as well as from the tools, resources, and technical assistance provided.

3. **Are you looking to explore certain disciplines more than others?** No—we're interested in ways incremental credentials can be employed across a variety of disciplines, at different levels, and targeting different groups of learners.

4. **The application form asks us to select the types of assistance that interest us. Will we be disadvantaged if we choose too many or too few?** No - we're interested in knowing what will be most useful to applicants. We will be targeting your needs first, so we ask you to be frank in your assessment of what will be most helpful to your work. You will not be disadvantaged based on the number or types of assistance you request.

5. **My institution is not part of a state system. Will we still be considered?** Yes - to date, Credential As You Go has targeted state systems of higher education and their institutions. The Expansion and Adoption Initiative will work to bring this work to scale. We're looking for effective ways to engage individual institutions and organizations as well as statewide systems. We welcome all institutions, state systems, and entities creating incremental credentials.

6. **My state is involved in Credential As You Go, but not my institution. Are we eligible to participate?** Yes - we are looking to expand the institutions beyond those that currently participate. If you are interested, we encourage you to apply.

7. **How many applicants will you choose?** Our determination of the number for the cohort will be informed by how much assistance applicants need. We're looking to include a variety of types of applicants, at different levels of incremental credentialing adoption, with varying areas of initial focus.

8. **What will the tool and resource evaluation involve?** We will ask participating organizations to use the tools and resources we provide, and to give us feedback about their utility—How have you used this tool/resource? What worked well? What should be changed and how? We will gather that information through survey and/or feedback forms as well as focus groups, conversations and/or emails.

9. **How frequently will the network meet?** Participating organizations will have several ways in which to engage with the network. Those will include virtual network meetings, topical webinars to address specific questions that arise from the group, and 1:1 or small group meetings among peers with shared interests. Participation in those meetings and webinars will be optional, although highly encouraged. Each will be recorded, posted, and made available for later viewing and to share among your colleagues.

10. **What kind of reporting and documentation will be required of participating organizations?** Reporting requirements will be simple and as streamlined as possible. We will be interested in learning about your progress in building incremental credentials as a part of the initiative. We may ask for brief write-ups or short answer responses to a survey or questionnaire. We will also ask for your feedback on the tools and resources you access, as described above.

11. **I'm an intermediary that works with a higher education institution that is doing this type of work. Can I submit the application or does the higher education institution need to submit?** Since we are not relaying direct funds to an institution, but rather providing access to technical assistance, tools and resources, and professional development opportunities, an intermediary could apply on behalf of the institutions with which it is working.

12. **What if my institution needs playbooks or tools that are not on the Credential As You Go list?** We welcome working with participants to identify additional resources that may be needed and useful to developing incremental credentials and will build resources on additional topics identified as the work progresses.

13. **What if my institution has already developed guidebooks and other tools to use in our incremental credentialing work? Are you interested in those?** Yes - we are definitely interested in reviewing resources you have developed and seeing if they could be helpful to others in the cohort. We would like to incorporate the best of what is out there in the Credential As You Go resources. When you complete your application, please describe any tools and resources you can contribute.

14. **I work with certifying organizations that are engaged in both developing various types of credentials but also implementing them. Can they participate?** Yes - we welcome applications involving certifying bodies developing incremental credentials. Those organizations are an important part of the ecosystem.