


**APPROVED**  
**March 15, 2023**

 John Lynch  
Interim General Counsel

Item #H-4  
March 15, 2023

**GROW YOUR OWN (GYO) TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE  
REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2023 STATE ALLOCATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item approval for the executive director to amend the Grow Your Own teacher initiative allocation for Fiscal Year 2023.

The Grow Your Own (GYO) initiative is to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers in hard to staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students and hard to staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. Further, the initiative is to increase the diversity of teachers, including diversity based on race and ethnicity. The initiative will ensure educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates an accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through which graduate shall meet the requirements to secure an Illinois initial teaching license.

Grow Your Own Illinois is a not-for-profit organization and is responsible for all grant operational activity and expenditures. This will include the grant application and management process of all programs.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) maintains responsibility for contracting an independent evaluation of the grant program. At the June 29, 2022, meeting, the Board approved an allocation to GYO in which IBHE would hold back five percent or approximately \$123,000 for the contracting of the independent evaluator. The remaining \$2,343,300 was to be awarded to the Grow Your Own Illinois for funding of grant activities. The actual cost of the evaluation is \$74,100. Staff are requesting authority to award GYO \$2,392,200 for Fiscal Year 2023.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education grant the Executive Director the authority to enter into an agreement with Grow Your Own Illinois for an amount up to \$2,392,200 the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GROW YOUR OWN (GYO) TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE  
REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2023 STATE ALLOCATION**

The intent of the GYO initiative is to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students and hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. Further, the initiative is to increase the diversity of teachers, including diversity based on race and ethnicity. The initiative will ensure educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates in accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through which graduates shall meet the requirements to secure an Illinois initial teaching license.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) maintains the responsibility for contracting an independent evaluator of the program. At the June 29, 2022, meeting, the Board approved an allocation to GYO in which IBHE would hold back five percent or approximately \$123,000 for the contracting of the independent evaluator. The remaining \$2,343,300 was approved to be sent to Grow Your Own Illinois for funding of the grant activities. The actual cost of the evaluation is \$74,100. Staff are requesting authority to award GYO \$2,392,200 for Fiscal Year 2023 and to retain \$74,100 for IBHE to contract for the evaluation.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the Executive Director the authority to enter into an agreement with Grow Your Own Illinois for \$2,392,200 for Fiscal Year 2023.*