Overview
The State of Georgia’s FY 2015 budget includes funding to support a new USG initiative, Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG), which focuses on reducing the costs of textbooks and the enhancement of GALILEO, Georgia’s Virtual Library and ALG’s parent initiative. A key strategy is to provide grant-supported opportunities for USG faculty, libraries, and institutions to transform their use of textbooks and other learning materials into lower cost options. The Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants are intended to:

1. Pilot different approaches in USG courses for textbook transformation including adoption, adaptation, and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or identification and adoption of materials already available in GALILEO and USG libraries.
2. Provide support to faculty, libraries, and their institutions to implement these approaches.
3. Lower the cost of college for students and contribute to their retention, progression, and graduation.

An RFP for Round One of the ALG Textbook Transformation Grants was released in August 2014. This first call received 48 proposals, resulting in thirty grant awards to 19 USG institutions to support adoption and use of no-or low-cost learning materials in USG courses in Spring semester 2015 in amounts of $10,800 each, in three categories: No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials, OpenStax Textbooks, and Course Pack Pilots.

This Round Two RFP includes these three categories plus an additional category: Transformations-At-Scale.

For more about Affordable Learning Georgia and the impact that textbook price can have on student success see: http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org

Description of Awards
Funding is available in four categories of projects; categories 1-3 and 4 have differing deadlines and requirements. Proposals can address any course; proposals that address courses in the Top 50 USG Lower-Division Courses are encouraged.

1. No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials
   Proposals in this category will address faculty replacing their existing textbook in a specific course with no-cost-to-students learning materials.
No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials can include but are not limited to the following:

- Adoption, adaptation, and/or creation of Open Textbooks. Open textbooks are widely available and used and have been adopted by several USG organizations including eCore, saving students thousands of dollars in textbook costs.
- Adoption, adaptation, and/or creation of other Open Educational Resources.
- Adoption of materials already available in GALILEO and USG libraries.
- Any of these in combination.

**Deadline for submission: November 30, 2014**
**Maximum award: $10,800**
**Semester of initial use in courses: Summer 2015 or Fall 2015**

2. **OpenStax Textbooks**
The University System is a member of the OpenStax College, which offers students free textbooks that meet scope and sequence requirements for most courses. These are peer-reviewed texts written by professional content developers. Faculty can adopt a book for a turnkey classroom solution or modify it to suit their individual teaching approach. Free online and low-cost in print, OpenStax College books are built for today's student budgets. OpenStax Textbook adoption grants are designed to support faculty driven work required for adoption of a specific textbook for a specific course. Proposals in this category will address faculty replacing their existing textbook in a specific course with an adoption/adaptation of an OpenStax College open textbook.

**Deadline for submission: November 30, 2014**
**Maximum award: $10,800**
**Semester of initial use in courses: Summer 2015 or Fall 2015**

3. **Course Pack Pilots**
Proposals in this category will address faculty replacing their existing textbook or existing course pack in a specific course with a library-supported course pack. Materials in the course pack can include OER, commercially available materials already licensed for the institution by GALILEO and USG libraries, and commercially available materials in which copyright permissions are cleared for a fee. ALG is hoping to do this in partnership with one or more clearance providers, to include review of GALILEO/library e-subscriptions to ensure no fees are paid for materials that are already licensed for use by the institution. ALG is interested in proposals that would explore multiple clearance fee recovery models, including ALG-funded, institution-funded, and student-funded. Partnership with college stores for print delivery is also encouraged.

**Deadline for submission: November 30, 2014**
**Maximum award: $10,800**
Semester of initial use in courses: Summer 2015 or Fall 2015

4. Transformations-At-Scale
Proposals in this category will address groups of faculty replacing their existing textbooks in projects that requiring more implementation time and/or larger teams in order to produce large scale impacts on affordability. These transformations can utilize any of the approaches in categories 1-3, including creation/adoption/adaptation of OERs, OpenStax textbooks, other Open Textbooks, creation of an original Open Textbook, and library course-packs. Proposals must address transformations producing one or more of the following large-scale impacts: specific course across multiple sections, multiple courses across multiple sections, department-wide, or multi-institution. Proposals can be submitted by teams from one or more institutions, by a department, or by a Regents Academic Advisory Committee. In the case of multi-institutional affiliations, all participants’ institutions/departments must provide a letter of support.

Deadline for submission: December 8, 2014
Maximum award: $30,000
Semester for initial use in courses: Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Funds
Funding is not a direct stipend to the team members, but rather goes to the institution to cover the team member’s time (salary/release time/overload/replacement coverage), project expenses including related department needs, and travel expenses (up to $800 is specifically designated for at least two team members to attend the required in-person kickoff meeting). The proposing team must coordinate as necessary with their departments and institutional sponsors to determine how to handle the distribution, including amounts, release time/overload/salary/replacement as well as semester(s). This provides the maximum flexibility to the institution and the team in terms of how many people and what types of skills are needed, amount of compensation vs. replacement of teaching load, and timing in terms of semesters of preparatory work vs. semesters of adoption.

Funding will be released to the sponsoring institutional office in two parts: 50% on return of the USG-drafted Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the original or modified proposal serving as the statement of work, and 50% on submission of the final report.

Proposals in categories 1-3 must involve teams of two faculty members, two faculty members including a librarian (category 2, Course Pack Pilots), or one faculty member and an instructional designer. Awards can provide up to $5000 for release time/overload/salary/replacement per team member for each of up to two team members for a maximum of $10,000 total plus $800 for overall project expenses.
including travel for at least two team members to attend a required grant kick-off meeting.

Proposals in category 4 can involve teams of 2 or more of any of the following: faculty, faculty librarians, instructional designers, subject matter experts, editors, graphic designers, or others as needed. Awards can provide up to $5000 for release time/overload/salary/replacement per team member for each team member for a maximum of $29,200 total plus $800 for overall project expenses, including travel for at least two team members to attend a required grant kick-off meeting.

**Required Activities**

Expected activities in all categories include training in the chosen project resources, open licensing as necessary, any textbook creation or adaptation required, and course redesign as necessary for the transformation.

Other required activities:

- Institutional sign-off on Service Level Agreement(s) provided by the University System Office, using the project proposal as a statement of work
- Institutional invoice to USG along with the signed SLA in order for funds to be disbursed
- Attendance by at least two team members at a required kick-off training/implementation meeting
- Completion of mid-implementation project status report
- Completion of a final project report, including provision of data on impact on student success
- Participation as needed in ALG-related communications

**Required Proposal Elements**

Two items are required:

- Completed Proposal Form (instructions included inline)
- Letter of support

  The letter must be provided from the sponsoring area (unit, office, department, school, library, campus office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs etc.) that will be responsible for receipt and distribution of funding. For multi-institutional teams, letters of support must come from each institution’s sponsoring area. Letters must reference sustainability.

**Process**

The Georgia Institute of Technology’s Center for 21st Century Universities (C21U) will manage the review process independently on behalf of ALG, working with a team of reviewers who will evaluate the projects in a blind process, using this rubric. Proposing teams will be notified on January 14, 2015 of the review committee’s decision.
Proposals (not to exceed 4 pages) will be evaluated on the feasibility and reasonableness of the action plan and adherence to the proposal guidelines, as weighted in the rubric. Follow-up questions or interviews may be requested of applicants. Please note that awardees’ applications will be made available to all USG institutions.

Team members will participate in facilitated project initiation processes, including a required in-person meeting on February 2, 2015 to kick-off project implementation. For review of processes, timelines, and training on content as needed for grant category. Teams will complete a mid-point status report form online and a final written report, to include requested measures of impact on student success and experience as well as any other elements provided in final report template. Teams will be expected to be available for information sharing about their experience in future ALG information sessions, in the ALG newsletter and other publications, on the ALG website, and in related presentations and materials.

Institutional sponsors will be responsible for fund disbursement, including expense and travel reimbursement. Budgets will be supported by State funds and therefore institutions spending project money must ensure compliance with State, BOR and institutional policies and procedures.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

All proposal documents, letters, and attachments must be submitted in a single email to: [alg@gatech.edu](mailto:alg@gatech.edu).

**DEADLINE FOR CATEGORIES 1-3:** 5:00 PM, NOVEMBER 30, 2014  
**DEADLINE FOR CATEGORY 4:** 5:00 PM, DECEMBER 8, 2014

[Download Proposal Form](#)  
[Download Proposal Evaluation Rubric](#)

**Timeline**

- October 20, 2014: Release of RFP for Round Two  
- October 29-30, 2014: Webinar(s) for RFP Review, Q and A  
- **November 30, 2014, Categories 1-3:** All proposal documents, references, and attachments must be submitted in a single email to [alg@gatech.edu](mailto:alg@gatech.edu) by 5:00 PM, EST, November 30, 2014.  
- **December 8, 2014, Category 4:** All proposal documents, references, and attachments must be submitted in a single email to [alg@gatech.edu](mailto:alg@gatech.edu) by 5:00 PM, EST, December 8, 2014.  
- **November 30, 2014-January 13, 2015:** Evaluation of proposals and final decisions
• January 14, 2015: Notifications to Submitters
• After January 14, 2015: First disbursement, on receipt of a simple contractual timeline tied to deliverables with the original or modified proposal serving as the statement of work
• February 2, 2015: Required kick-off training/implementation meeting
• Spring Semester 2015 through Fall Semester 2015: Implementation processes by grant recipients as outlined in proposal
• Spring Semester 2015 through Spring Semester 2016: Status reports as required by timeline, one at the end of each semester of implementation
• Summer Semester 2015 through Spring Semester 2016: Production release in USG course offered to students
• Summer Semester 2015 through Spring Semester 2016: Final report as required by timeline, at the end of the first semester offered to students

**Information Sessions**
Two webinars for RFP review and Q and A will be held on October 29 and 30, 2014:

**October 29, 2014, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**
To attend this meeting, click the link below:
https://borusg.webex.com/borusg/j.php?MTID=mf5f4099ed827bbc23224013fe1a61b78
Meeting number: 644 219 649
Meeting password: ALGGRANTS

**October 30, 2014, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
To attend this meeting, click the link below:
https://borusg.webex.com/borusg/j.php?MTID=mb804e1944f1ed68d6af95b88f03529a3
Meeting number: 642 558 557
Meeting password: ALGGRANTS