# Innovation Station Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

* **What is an innovation station?**

An innovation station is a broad term for a space in your library (or at a partner institution) dedicated to promoting creativity and learning. This station or lab should provide your community with a way to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) resources, STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, math) resources, and/or develop the job skills needed in California’s innovation-based economy.

Each library applying is encouraged to think about how their own unique space for innovation might support their community needs. This grant’s goal is to foster collaboration between libraries and partners to provide resources to sustain the innovation station they develop and enhance the library experience. This in turn will enhance library sustainability and further position the library as a cornerstone of the community.

* **What kind of partners do you envision?**

The partnerships you form should contribute to the creation, development, funding, and/or staffing of your innovation station. Consider community partners, such as schools, employers, agencies, and non-profits that may help to benefit and strengthen your library’s unique innovation station.

* **Are there specific requirements for cash match or in-kind?**

Specific levels of cash and in-kind match are not required, but libraries are expected to contribute staff time to conduct programming for the project and partnerships are strongly encouraged.

* **Can the target audiences for programs presented using the new technology be for children, teens, and adults?**

Yes, applications for funds can target programming for any and all ages.

* **What can be purchased with project funds?**

Grant funds for this project should be used to purchase supplies and/or small equipment (items that are $5,000 or less per unit). It may be used to purchase technology, materials, and/or AV equipment for programs, and your purchase should align with the project goals in creating an innovative space, address a community need, and help to support at least two programs by March 2018.

Project funds should not be requested for staff time or to hire personnel, presenters, performers, and consultants. Those should be provided by the library or a project partner.

* **Is CIPA compliance a requirement, and are there other project restrictions that libraries should consider?**

CIPA compliance is not required, and construction (breaking or building walls) is not allowed.

* **If there were furniture needs, would that fall under the umbrella of supplies or would that have to be provided from other funds?**

Furniture needs may be considered if it is movable, such as tables and chairs, benefits the creation of your innovation station, and aligns with project goals. This is something that could also be provided by the library or a partner and included as part of a match.

* **May we purchase technology designed to evaluate programming?**

Technology purchases should go towards supplies or materials to create an innovation station or lab for library patrons, not for the evaluation of programming.

* **Can project funds be used to purchase subscriptions?**

Yes, if you propose to use project funds to purchase print or software subscriptions, you must be able to support the subscriptions following the end of the grant period if the subscription is deemed valuable to your innovation station users.

* **Are there examples of an “innovation station” available?**

Each library’s innovation station, lab, or maker space will be unique to the needs of their community, but here is an example of an innovation station that was supported with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding: <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/library/innovation-station>