Acceleration Grants

Program Overview

NISS Acceleration Grants Overview

Goal: An evidence-based and impact-driven grants program that supports universities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving student outcomes by addressing structural and institutional barriers

Key Framework: The NISS Acceleration Grants is a comprehensive framework offering partners:

- **Financial Resources:** up to 18 months of funding,

- **Implementation Coaching:** customized implementation support

- **Tools and Resources:** A suite of tools to include webinars related to best and proven practices, meetings with expert practitioners, and access to customized digital learning platform of student success-related resources, tools and strategies

Key Principles

Resources to support and accelerate institutional change related to student success.

A collaborative and flexible grants administrative framework to support the ability to make key changes and timely pivots where necessary.

A performance-based grant, with a strong focus on key outcomes, data metrics, and reporting.

Grant Eligibility Criteria

High Enrollment of Black and/or Hispanic Students

NISS Diagnostic Completed

Agree to NISS Coaching Services

Agree to Data Reporting Requirements

Grant Award Opportunities

➢ **Coaching Services Subsidy:** *Annual Implementation Coaching Service Fee*

➢ **Acceleration Sub-Award Grant Funding:** *Funding for the development and sustainment of student success programs, resources, and tools*

NISS ACCELERATION GRANT PHASES

1   **NISS Diagnostic and Playbook-** University partners have clear, concise, data-led insights on the unique composition of student success challenges for their institutions and prioritize the key strategies and resources for student success.

2   **Implementation Support -** University partners work in collaboration with the NISS Coaching team in developing and executing a detailed strategy for budget for one or more of the playbook strategies.

3   **Reporting & Evaluation-** University partners work in collaboration with the NISS Coaching and Grants teams to report key progress, budget expenditures, and impacts.

Budget & Reporting Requirements

Grant Period: January 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Grant Funding Amount: Up to **$200,000** in resources is available based on identified progress

Invoice Requirements:
Once executed, the first payment of **$100,000** will be released, upon receipt of an institutional invoice (as provided in the final Subaward Agreement). Potential Budget Categories Include:

- Technology
- Student Programming
- Travel, Training, Professional Development
- Contractual Services (Data Analysis, Technology Consultants)
- Graduate Positions
- Stipends (I.E., Degree Map Support)

This grant will operate on a mid-year renewable basis. The progress of the work and spending will be reviewed midyear and subsequent subaward payment will be released upon review and approval of the documented progress of identified goals and strategies.

Budget modification within 10% of each budget line item does not require an official NISS approval.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subrecipient is required to submit one (1) original of the following report(s) to GSU Grants Office in accordance with the dates shown below:

Report Type	Due No Later than
Quarterly Check-In Calls	10th day of the month
Progress Report	October 15, 2025
Final Report	July 30, 2026
Post Award Status Report	Annual for six years post grant award

Grant Pre-Award Process

1 NISS Partner Institution is Invited to be an Acceleration Grant Recipient- Subaward Packet is Released

2 Partner Institution Submits Draft Program Scope & Budget- Coaches Provide Support & Guidance

3 Grants Team Review Subaward Packet- Works with Partner Universities to Complete and Prepares for OPSA Submission

4 Grants Team Uploads Subaward Request in Research Portal- Grant Agreement Processed in GSURF Portal

5 Upon FINAL approval of project budget, partner institution submits invoice request **for release of Year 1** funding

6 Grant Funding is released

Sub-Awardee Document Checklist

Acceleration Grant- Key Documents Checklist

Partner University:

Key Documents	Date Submitted	Date Approved	Notes
Implementation Coaching Services			
Implementation Services Agreement			
Acceleration Grant (Pre-Award)			
Research Subaward Agreement *(Attachment 3B)*			
Subrecipient Commitment Form			
Statement of Work & Budget			
F&A Agreement			
Audit Report or Questionaire			
W-9			
Accleration Grant (Execution)			
Final Statement of Work and Budget			
EFT Request Form			

NISS Acceleration Grant Projected Budget

Partner Agency: _____

	Phase 1 Budget (1/2/25-9/30/25)	Phase 2 Budget (10/1/25-6/30/26)	Total	Connection to NISS Playbook
Personnel Costs				
-				
-				
-				
-				
Total Salaries				
Total Benefits				
Total Personnel Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Non-Personnel Costs				
Materials, Supplies, & Equipment				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Operations				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Marketing/Communications				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Technology Platforms & Solutions				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Student Programming & Support				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Travel, Training, & Professional Development				
-				
-				
Subtotal	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Total Non-Personnel Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	
F&A (capped at 10%)	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTAL COSTS	$ -	$ -	$ -	

ACCELERATION GRANT: INSTITUTION NAME

Scope of Work: January 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Goal:

1. Standardize academic advising by creating structure, building collaborations, and systematizing processes for faculty advisors, professional advisors, and any additional advising supports.

Focus 1 – Established an Academic Advising Council that meets on a regular basis and sets policies, practices, and procedures for all advisors on campus while effectively and proactively reporting and tracking data on academic advising.

Focus 2 – Task AAC with establishing an advising structure that effectively coordinates across the institutions, improves communication across advising and support offices, and utilizes/leverages data to inform best practices in advisement.

Focus 3 – Require all advisors receive mandatory training during onboarding and throughout their tenure as an academic advisor to ensure institutional policies and procedures are standardized.

Focus 4 – Establish a minimum standard of care [manual] guided by policies and practices the AAC has enacted for all advisors to adhere to that ensures all students to receive consistent, proactive, and timely advising experience.

Project Outcomes:

Increase student retention and success through the implementation and assessment of data informed academic advising that have a proven effect on student trajectory and progression, with a focus on increasing graduation rates.

By the end of this implementation engagement:
Formalized data collection and review process for all academic advising data at your institution
A Standard of Care manual
Training calendar (for onboarding and ongoing training)
New advisor training manual

Sample Key Data Metrics

- Number of AAC meetings
- Number of students attending academic advising sessions
- Number of advising campaigns executed
- Number of proactive outreach related to early alerts
- Number of training sessions conducted with academic advisors