

2012 CU*ANSWERS

Innovator Investment & Grant Program

Overview



The CU*Answers Innovators Investment and Grant Program

The cuasterisk.com network has long been the birthplace of many successful ideas and we'd like to continue to foster innovation that creates an opportunity for members, credit unions and our network. This is a program of philanthropy and investing in ourselves, our work, our communities and our network. Ideally the CU*Answers Innovator Investment & Grant Program is looking to invest in projects that help people in the communities of our network.

However, this program needs to have the **integrity** of making good choices. The Innovator Investment & Grant program is not about charity, but investing in a business or project that is beneficial to a community. Participation in this program is an interview for \$10,000; applicants must meet several requirements and survive multiple rounds of judging to participate in this program. It's not a guarantee of funds. That may mean telling potential innovators "no" as often, or possibly more often than "yes."

Not all ideas are worth our investment, or sometimes it's just not the right choice right now.

CU*Answers Innovator Investment & Grant Program Goals

- Innovation:* Spark new ideas in our community.
- Inspiration:* Do this in my town. Find someone in my community.
- Integrity:* Choose the right projects. Invest in our communities.
- Philanthropy:* Help someone in my community. Create an opportunity.

2012 Program

For the 2012 Innovator Investment & Grant program CU*Answers is budgeting up to **\$30,000 for 3 investments or grants of up to \$10,000 each**. This is not a guarantee; we may not award full amounts or possibly anything at all.

In addition Presenters must be prepared to send up to 3 people to CEO Strategies on November 7th, 2012. To expand the reach of ideas for 2012, CU*Answers is also budgeting a **travel budget of up to \$2,500 for each team**.



Proposed Requirements

The CU*Answers Innovator Investment & Grant Program for 2012 will have more stringent requirements than 2011 that includes a screening process. Submissions must include a business plan with a completed application form. In addition there must be a clear plan of action for how they plan to spend any awarded funds.



Applicants will make a short preliminary presentation to the Selection Committee via WebEx. All applicants will then be notified whether or not they have been selected to present their proposal for consideration at the CEO Strategies Conference on November 7th.

Winners must commit to follow up and report progress of the projects throughout the year and may be asked to report at the following year's conference.

Planned Schedule

Date	Event
6/20	CU*Answers announces the 2012 Program at the CU*Answers Leadership Conference.
8/1	Submissions due.
8/31	All required paperwork must be turned in.
9/10	Round 1 - CU*Answers Selection Committee notifies projects moving on to next round.
9/24	Web conference presentations to CU*Answers Selection Committee. (week of)
10/15	Round 2 - CU*Answers Selection Committee notifies projects moving on to next round.
11/7	Final Round - Projects presented at CEO Strategies conference.



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