

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Workforce Development (AccelerateMS) seeks proposals from qualified, nationally recognized nonprofit organizations to develop and deliver a comprehensive, experiential financial literacy and workforce readiness curriculum. The program will serve students in grades 6–12 in Mississippi public schools, with the goal of fostering lifelong financial capability and career readiness.

The program must utilize evidence-based instructional models, engage volunteer educators and community professionals, and build partnerships with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Coverage must be equitably distributed across Mississippi's four workforce regions, and the project will be supported by \$300,000 in legislative appropriated funding.

## 2. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected nonprofit organization will be responsible for:

### 2.1 Curriculum Development and Delivery

- Design or adapt a **proven, standards-aligned curriculum** integrating financial literacy and workforce readiness for middle and high school students.
- Include content covering personal finance (e.g., budgeting, saving, credit, taxes), career planning, and employability skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, work ethic).

### 2.2 Instructional Model

- Utilize **experiential learning** approaches (e.g., simulations, project-based learning).
- Deliver through **in-school, afterschool, and/or virtual formats**.
- Provide implementation support and training for educators and volunteers.

### 2.3 Volunteer and Community Engagement

- Recruit, train, and support **volunteer instructors and community professionals** to deliver instruction or co-facilitate sessions.
- Establish local industry and community partnerships.

### 2.4 Regional and School Partnerships

- Establish active partnerships with at least one LEA in each of Mississippi's four workforce regions.
- Demonstrate a plan for **equitable implementation** statewide.

### 2.5 Reporting and Evaluation

- Collect and report student participation and performance data.
- Measure learning gains and program impact on student readiness.
- Submit regular program and financial reports to AccelerateMS.

## 3. QUALIFICATIONS

- Be a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a proven track record of serving as a partner with Local Educational Agencies by providing students in grades 6-12 with financial literacy and workforce readiness curriculum and programming in support of Mississippi schools.
- Have a history of program implementation in diverse or rural communities.
- Demonstrate the ability to leverage partnerships with schools and employers.
- Show capacity for statewide coordination and program evaluation.

#### 4. FUNDING DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

A total of \$300,000 has been appropriated for this initiative. Funding will be awarded as a single grant. The selected organization must present a detailed budget and narrative outlining how the funds will be used for statewide implementation, including:

- Curriculum development and delivery
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Partnership development
- Evaluation and reporting

The scope of work as outlined in this Request for Proposal must be delivered at no cost to participating schools or students.

#### 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Program Design and Alignment	30%
Organizational Capacity and Experience	25%
Regional Equity and Partnerships	20%
Budget and Cost Efficiency	15%
Evaluation and Reporting Plan	10%

#### 6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT

Each proposal must include:

- Executive Summary
- Narrative responding to the Scope of Work
- Implementation timeline with milestones
- Organizational qualifications and bios of key personnel
- Detailed line-item budget and budget narrative
- Letters of support from partner LEAs or organizations
- Documentation of nonprofit status

#### 7. TIMELINE

The timeline of this contract will be from the date of signature by all parties until July 31, 2026.

#### 8. SUBMISSION

All proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format to:

**Email:** [info@acceleratems.org](mailto:info@acceleratems.org)

**Subject Line:** "Proposal – Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Program"

**Deadline:** No later than 5:00 PM CT on Sunday, July 18, 2025.

## **9. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- AccelerateMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.
- No costs incurred in proposal preparation will be reimbursed.
- The award is contingent on compliance with Mississippi state procurement laws.

## **10. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY**

This solicitation is issued in accordance with the Mississippi Procurement Manual, Section 3.107 (Competitive Sealed Proposals). Reverse auction exemption has been requested from the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) due to the technical and integration requirements of this system.

## **11. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For questions or clarifications regarding this RFP, please contact:

Blaise King, Director of Workforce Innovation, AccelerateMS

Email: [bking@acceleratems.org](mailto:bking@acceleratems.org)