

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Governor’s Reserve Funds

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Request for Workforce Proposals (RFP)

Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reforms and modernizes workforce development. Seizing the extraordinary opportunity offered by WIOA, Mississippi created an innovative State Plan to produce a more efficient and effective workforce system in our state. We encourage you to read our plan – *The Mississippi Works Smart Start Career Pathway* – at [2022 Mississippi WIOA State Plan](#).

To further spur workforce innovation by the states, WIOA provides Governor’s Reserve Funds to support employment and training activities, as defined in WIOA Section 129. Grants will be awarded from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$150,000 to successful applicants.

Purpose

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is seeking workforce proposals for the use of WIOA Governor’s Reserve Funds. Proposals should meet the focused area of In-School-Youth while being in compliance with WIOA and align with the Mississippi State Plan. These proposals should demonstrate how the idea/concept will assist the State in meeting the goals set forth in the State Plan, as well as the WIOA law and regulations.

MDES will evaluate submitted proposals for allowability, innovation, and alignment with the goals of the State Plan. MDES will make recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

A request for workforce proposal is not an implied award of grant funds. MDES reserves the right to recommend project proposals that best meet the objectives of the Governor and the intent of the WIOA State Plan, and will have the greatest economic benefit for the State. Applicants showing collaborative partnerships across industry, education and community organizations will be prioritized. Proposals will be scored and the highest scoring proposals not approved will be prioritized for future opportunities.

Specific Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply?

- K-12 Public Educational Institutions
- Non-profits
- Community Organizations

Eligible Projects

- Grants to grow or create STEM labs for K-12 schools

- Grants for K-12 and postsecondary learning experiences (robotics and automation competitions and camps)
- Grants for K-12 work-based learning opportunities, including summer on-the-job experiences

Instructions

Proposals should use the attached template and **must** include the following information:

1. Identify the proposing organization and title of the activity.
2. Specify the contact information; include contact's name, title, address, phone number, and email.
3. Identify proposed beginning and end date of the workforce proposal. The duration of the proposal should not exceed 18 months.
4. Provide cost of the proposal. Proposers are encouraged to use leveraged funds to support the effort. Proposers may identify resources such as foundation, private, State, and Federal funding to support proposal activities.
5. Provide a proposal narrative no longer than 4 pages that includes the following:
 - a. Describe activities and services to be provided.
 - b. Describe proposal's goals and how they align with Mississippi's WIOA State Plan.
 - c. Describe measurable outcomes that will be delivered.

Important Notice of Change:

This RFP contains the requirements that respondents must meet to submit a responsive bid. Proposers must have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) number and active registration with <https://sam.gov> to be considered for funding. The federal government uses an UIE for each entity that does business with the federal government. For more than two decades, DUNS has served as the unique entity ID; however, DUNS ended on April 4, 2022, when the federal government completed the transition to the new UEI that is issued within the System for Award Management (SAM). Successful respondents will serve as contractors of federal WIOA funds authorized and administered by the United States Department of Labor (DOL) and under the oversight of the SMW. Therefore, successful bidders must have an UIE before a subgrant can be fully executed.

Submission

Proposers may submit workforce proposal forms in electronic format (Word or .pdf files) using the attached "Template for RFP" to Donna Hollis at dhollis@mdes.ms.gov at the MDES Office of Grant Management. The subject line should read "PY22 Workforce Proposals for Governor's Reserve Funds." All proposals must be submitted by the close of business on **July 15, 2022**.

~~allocations under subsection (b)(2)(B) for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.~~

~~(4) ELIGIBILITY. For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means—~~

~~(A) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for adult employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and~~

~~(B) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for dislocated worker employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.~~

29 USC 3174.

SEC. 134. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds reserved by a Governor—

(A) as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to carry out the statewide rapid response activities described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1)—

(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2)(B); and

(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3),

regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A State shall carry out statewide rapid response activities using funds reserved by the Governor for the State under section 133(a)(2), which activities shall include—

(I) provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas; and

(II) provision of additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas.

(ii) USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Funds reserved by a Governor under section 133(a)(2), and section 133(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of

this Act), to carry out this subparagraph that remain unobligated after the first program year for which such funds were allotted may be used by the Governor to carry out statewide activities authorized under subparagraph (B) or paragraph (3)(A), in addition to activities under this subparagraph.

(B) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the States under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) shall be used for statewide employment and training activities, including—

(i) providing assistance to—

(I) State entities and agencies, local areas, and one-stop partners in carrying out the activities described in the State plan, including the coordination and alignment of data systems used to carry out the requirements of this Act;

(II) local areas for carrying out the regional planning and service delivery efforts required under section 106(c);

(III) local areas by providing information on and support for the effective development, convening, and implementation of industry or sector partnerships; and

(IV) local areas, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, including the development and training of staff, which may include the development and training of staff to provide opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment to enter in-demand industry sectors or occupations and nontraditional occupations, the development of exemplary program activities, and the provision of technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(ii) providing assistance to local areas as described in section 106(b)(6);

(iii) operating a fiscal and management accountability information system in accordance with section 116(i);

(iv) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter and chapter 2;

(v) disseminating—

(I) the State list of eligible providers of training services, including eligible providers of nontraditional training services and eligible providers of apprenticeship programs described in section 122(a)(2)(B); List.

(II) information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, or transitional jobs;

(III) information on effective outreach to, partnerships with, and services for, business;

(IV) information on effective service delivery strategies to serve workers and job seekers;

(V) performance information and information on the cost of attendance (including tuition and fees) for participants in applicable programs, as described in subsections (d) and (h) of section 122; and

(VI) information on physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), for individuals with disabilities; and

Evaluations.

(vi) conducting evaluations under section 116(e) of activities authorized under this chapter and chapter 2 in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 169(a).

(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(B) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) may be used to carry out additional statewide employment and training activities, which may include—

(i) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers (including small employers) in the State, which programs and strategies may include incumbent worker training programs, customized training, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and implementation of industry or sector partnerships, career pathway programs, microenterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, layoff aversion strategies, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce development system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

(ii) developing strategies for effectively serving individuals with barriers to employment and for coordinating programs and services among one-stop partners;

(iii) the development or identification of education and training programs that respond to real-time labor market analysis, that utilize direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure and provide credit for prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, that evaluate such skills and competencies for adaptability, that ensure credits are portable and stackable for more skilled employment, and that accelerate course or credential completion;

(iv) implementing programs to increase the number of individuals training for and placed in non-traditional employment;

(v) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services, including training services described in subsection (c)(3), provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

(vi) supporting the provision of career services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery systems in the State;

(vii) coordinating activities with the child welfare system to facilitate provision of services for children and youth who are eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677);

(viii) activities—

(I) to improve coordination of workforce investment activities with economic development activities;

(II) to improve coordination of employment and training activities with—

(aa) child support services, and assistance provided by State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(bb) cooperative extension programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture;

(cc) programs carried out in local areas for individuals with disabilities, including programs carried out by State agencies relating to intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, activities carried out by Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d), programs funded under part B of chapter 1 of title VII of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796e et seq.), and activities carried out by centers for independent living, as defined in section 702 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796a);

(dd) adult education and literacy activities, including those provided by public libraries;

(ee) activities in the corrections system that assist ex-offenders in reentering the workforce; and

(ff) financial literacy activities including those described in section 129(b)(2)(D); and

(III) consisting of development and dissemination of workforce and labor market information;

(ix) conducting research and demonstration projects related to meeting the employment and education needs of adult and dislocated workers;

(x) implementing promising services for workers and businesses, which may include providing support for education, training, skill upgrading, and statewide networking for employees to become workplace

learning advisors and maintain proficiency in carrying out the activities associated with such advising;

(xi) providing incentive grants to local areas for performance by the local areas on local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(xii) adopting, calculating, or commissioning for approval an economic self-sufficiency standard for the State that specifies the income needs of families, by family size, the number and ages of children in the family, and substate geographical considerations;

(xiii) developing and disseminating common intake procedures and related items, including registration processes, materials, or software; and

(xiv) providing technical assistance to local areas that are implementing pay-for-performance contract strategies, which technical assistance may include providing assistance with data collection, meeting data entry requirements, identifying levels of performance, and conducting evaluations of such strategies.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds allotted to a State under sections 127(b) and 132(b) and reserved as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) for a fiscal year—

(I) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 127(b)(1);

(II) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(1); and

(III) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(2),

may be used by the State for the administration of statewide youth workforce investment activities carried out under section 129 and statewide employment and training activities carried out under this section.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available for administrative costs under clause (i) may be used for the administrative cost of any of the statewide youth workforce investment activities or statewide employment and training activities, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

~~(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to a local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B)—~~

~~(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively; and~~

~~(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively.~~

~~(c) REQUIRED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—~~

~~(A) ALLOCATED FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area~~