

Outline for ARPA – Specific Populations Support with Wrap-Around Services & Direct Training

A. Program Description

The Office of Workforce Development, known commonly as Accelerate Mississippi (AccelerateMS), requests applications for grant funding from Community-based organizations; Non-profit organizations; State agencies; to provide supportive services for specific populations (including, but not limited to military personnel, single parents, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, underemployed individuals, and individuals with disabilities) of people pursuing employment and or receiving training leading quality employment opportunities with the goal to provide greater opportunities for those impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency who also have specific barriers to employment. Funding for this program comes from the State of Mississippi's allocation of the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CFDA 21.027), which was created by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (Mar. 11, 2021). Unless noted otherwise, all funds awarded through this program are considered a subaward of federal funds. Grantees will be considered subrecipients, subject to provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations governing use of federal grant funds.

B. Eligibility and Requirements:

Eligible applicants include State agencies, Community-based organizations, non-profit partners with a record of managing federal grant funds under a high level of scrutiny.

Activities eligible under this program include supportive services expenses, including but not limited to child care, transportation, retraining, mentoring and career pathway coaching, financial literacy training, and back-to-work support specific to the needs of the specific populations targeted for support:

- Military personnel transitioning out of service
- Single parents
- Currently and formerly incarcerated individuals
- Underemployed individuals
- Individuals with disabilities

Priority will be given to applicants who have documented need for training programs through labor market information or direct industry requests and support; have evidenced connection to the local community; provide priority for non-traditional participants; provide pathways from K-12, adult education, and the criminal justice system through training to available and related jobs; and provide evidence of sufficient outreach and recruitment efforts. Entities may submit more than one application.

C. Eligible Expenses:

Expenses eligible under this program include direct workforce training-related expenses, including outreach and recruitment; awareness and interest-building; training program expansion; equipment; personnel; supplies; and consumables.

D. Application and Submission Information:

Applications must be submitted electronically to info@acceleratems.org by the date as described in section E below.

Requirements:

- a) Executive Summary (No more than 1 page): non-technical description of the need and how the proposed program will address the need, including COVID-19 needs and impacts. The Summary must include an overview of the outcomes expected from the project.
- b) Scope of Work and Project Justification: Must clearly indicate the specific activities and how they are linked to the project's purpose, key milestones, and deliverables.
- c) Proposed Performance Metrics: A description of the outcome-based performance measures to be tracked. At a minimum, number of new trainees expected through the program and occupations targeted for training completers, including geographically limited wages.
- d) Budget and Narrative: A complete budget with narrative
- e) Organization Contact Information and appropriate approver(s).
 - a. Legal Entity Name
 - b. Name of Contact Person
 - c. Address
 - d. Phone Number & Email Address
 - e. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
 - i. A 12-character, alpha-numeric code assigned by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to individuals applying for grant money, or government assistance.
 - f. Valid SAM.gov registration

E. Important Dates and Deadlines:

Thursday, July 28, 2022: Request for Applications released to entities

Wednesday, August 3, 2022: Webinar for questions/clarifications

Friday, August 26, 2022, at 5:00pm (CST): DEADLINE for submission of grant application

Friday, September 16, 2022: Notification of successful applicants

Friday, December 16, 2022: 1st Quarterly Report Due to AccelerateMS

Friday, March 10, 2023: 2nd Quarterly Report Due to AccelerateMS

Friday, June 30, 2023: Final Quarterly Report Due to AccelerateMS

Friday, June 30, 2023: Deadline for ALL grant-funded expenses

Submit applications via email to: info@acceleratems.org

Questions may be submitted to Courtney Taylor at courtneytaylor@acceleratems.org