

RFA for ARPA- Training expansion programs

A. Program Description

The Office of Workforce Development, known commonly as Accelerate Mississippi (AccelerateMS), requests applications for grant funding from Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges; Institutions of Higher learning; local school districts; and industries to increase the capacity of training programs that are already in place to provide opportunities for those impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. 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 Public Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges; Institutions of Higher Learning; and K-12.

Activities eligible under this program include workforce training expenses, retraining, or recruitment and retention, including that of non-traditional populations in:

- Healthcare (Public Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges only)— training programs providing pathways to occupations such as nurse assistant, nurse, first responder, and others in the healthcare sector with documented need due to COVID-19 disruptions.
- Emerging industry sectors— training programs providing pathways to occupations in advanced manufacturing; uncrewed systems; cybersecurity; fiber construction and maintenance; electric mobility manufacturing; and data analytics and management and others with documented need due to COVID-19 disruptions in the labor market.
- Logistics & Supply Chain— training programs providing pathways to occupations in transportation and delivery with documented need due to COVID-19 disruptions in the labor market such as: commercial driver's license (CDL), warehousing and logistics; and transportation.

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