Training and Wrap-around Services FAQs

- Is there a specific definition for "underemployed"?
    - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Concepts and Definitions, https://www.bls.gov/cps/ definitions.htm. Underemployed by this definition means: "Currently employed but are seeking to move to a job that provides better opportunities for economic advancement".
- Are stipends, transportation costs, or incentives paid directly to program participants allowable costs?
    - Transportation costs are allowable. Stipends and other incentives are not to be included.
- Are there page limits for the narrative?
    - There are no page limits, but conciseness is recommended.
- What is the maximum award amount available overall for Specific Populations, and is there a cap on the award amount per sub-award?
    - There is no maximum award.
- What is the program start date?
    - No set start date, but we expect awardees to start quickly following September notifications. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2023.
- Are indirect costs allowed and if so, is there a cap on the rate?
    - Yes, if no federal negotiated cost rate, the 10% de minimis amount is the maximum allowed.
- Given the short timeline, is it possible to write contracts that are paid in full during the grant term, but where there may be services provided after the grant period?
    - No. The services provided must match the grant period.
- Is it possible to provide just outreach services or do programs have to provide all of the services?
    - Funding should be utilized for outreach services regarding funded training programs. Outreach efforts could include traditional program outreach through various media formats as well as efforts to better connect K-12 students with available training opportunities.
- Can community colleges apply for the wrap-around services RFP?
    - No. Community Colleges are not an eligible applicant for the wrap-around services RFP.
- Can the grant serve high school students, or is it limited to the priority populations?
    - Yes. The funds can be used to support high school students.
- Is there any type of proof required to show participants have been impacted by Covid, or is it self-report?
    - Self-attestation is acceptable, but evidence of impact is preferred.
- Is there a minimum amount to be awarded? Is there a certain number of awards available?
    - No. There is no set minimum, maximum, or number of awards available.
- Can federal funds from an existing grant be considered matching funds?
    - Matching funds are not required for this RFP, but it is required that leveraged/matching funds be enumerated within the application.
- Normally federal final reports are due 30-60 days post award date. Are you saying that the funds have to be expended and reported on by June 30, 2023?

- o   Funds have to be expended by June 30, 2023 and reported by July 31, 2023.
- Are funds able to be expended on bricks and mortar (for example, the building of a childcare center) or just supportive service activities only?
  - o   Bricks and mortar activities are not allowed.
- Can a county government apply on behalf of its workforce development entity?
  - o   County governments are not eligible.
- If the community organization is an arm of the county government, can the county partner with a community college as a training provider?
  - o   The community college should apply directly as the training provider.
- Can a county government convene several community organizations for a project to be awarded under this opportunity?
  - o   To be clear, is the applicant the county wishing to act as a pass-through sub-recipient and create sub-awards to several entities? County governments are not eligible. If multiple organizations partnered together, they would need to create separation between entities and their respective programs for reporting clarity and one entity must serve as lead for reporting purposes.
- Are there any prohibitions to governments participating in this funding opportunity?
  - o   Eligible entities for the training expansion grants are public Mississippi community and junior colleges, institutions of higher learning, and K-12 school districts.
  - o   Eligible entities for the wrap-around services are state agencies, community-based organizations, and non-profit partners.
  - o   County governments are not eligible applicants.
- Regarding eligible applicant criteria including "…a record of managing federal grant funds under a high level of scrutiny,": a.) Would sub-grants that were awarded from federal funds to applicants via state agencies, such as MDHS, qualify as "federal grant funds" for purposes of satisfying this proposal requirement?
  - o   Yes
- Are applicants able to describe their record of managing non-federal grant funds that received a high level of scrutiny for purposes of satisfying this proposal requirement?
  - o   Yes
- Are there any specific font, document spacing, document type or any other formatting requirements for the application proposal, and if so, where can we find that information?
  - o   No specific font or formatting is required.
- Can we offer participants financial or material incentives for completion of the proposed program?
  - o   There are no direct prohibitions of providing equipment to the participants who are unemployed or underemployed coming into the program, but documentation must be made that the equipment given was related to the goals of the program and provides a benefit to the beneficiary that is proportional to the cost of the equipment.

- Awardees are considered subrecipients of AccelerateMS. If subrecipients plan to create additional subrecipients they must seek approval from Accelerate which will include submitting their own plan for how the subrecipient would be monitored.