

Workforce Innovation Fund Limited Competition Opportunity

AMOUNTS: \$3 to \$6 million

(and 15% of grant funds must be used for required evaluation activities, to be done by a qualified third-party evaluator to “ensure that states gain meaningful information about whether their approach worked well and which aspects worked best, and to inform other states’ future workforce system changes.” (p. 1); 15% of \$6 million = \$900,000)

COST-SHARE: none noted

SUSTAINABILITY BEYOND THE GRANT PERIOD: none noted

REQUIRED PARTNERS:

- State workforce agency administering WIOA title I, representing one of the core programs under WIOA as defined in Section 3(13) of WIOA.
- Two additional core programs under WIOA: the Wagner-Peyser Employment Service, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Program, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.
- At least one additional non-core program: such as Jobs for Veterans State Grants Program, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, SNAP E&T, TANF and Apprenticeship (p.2), or any other employment and training program appropriate to the proposed strategies (p. 6). *(*if a non-core program is not included due to ongoing WIOA transition activities during the application period, we would need to have a plan in place to engage them in the proposed strategies by the beginning of July 2016, in alignment with WIOA and the State Plan that will be in effect at that time. p. 2)*

PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 48 months, beginning September 30, 2015 and ending September 30, 2019

- Up to 12 months for start-up activities
- At least 24 months for implementation
- Up to 12 months for completing the required evaluation activities

PROJECT DESIGN OPTIONS: 1 or more of the following three objectives

- (1) Enhancing strategic collaboration and alignment of workforce development and partner programs to provide more effective services that are aligned to employer needs and local economic development activities;
- (2) Strengthening the quality of the American Job Center services provided by workforce and partner programs to individuals and employers; or
- (3) Promoting accountability, data-driven decision making and customer choice for workforce and partner programs.

It was suggested that we use this option to implement the common intake technology discussed to add Voc Rehab, TANF, and Adult Ed.

Examples provided in the funding opportunity for this option are listed as, but not limited to:

- Designing common or linked technology-based intake and case management system that allow for a seamless customer experience, effective support service provision, and help inform customers’ choices.
- Expanding access to comprehensive information on providers, including on program outcomes that will enable both participants and employers to make more informed choices of education and/or training programs.
- Linking or aligning data system performance accountability and data systems to support improved program management, performance reporting, and policy and resource allocation decisions across partner programs.
- Use of robust, validated data to inform planning, strategy development and operations across programs.

REQUIRED DISSEMINATION PLAN

- Must describe plans for sharing the information gained in the project to include documenting and disseminating lessons learned regionally and nationwide as well as peer monitoring. (p. 6)

ALSO REQUIRED

- Evidence supporting proposed approach; logic model w/outcomes and outputs, process data and goals, including how they compare to current performance under existing systems; description of the data elements, analysis, and evaluation plan. (If performance outcomes are part of the proposed strategy, we need to use the statutory performance indicators under WIOA and align outcomes and outputs to these indicators where possible.) More information on the evaluation plan is listed on pp. 7-8.