

Q&As from the Healthcare Skills Gap Webinar

Updated November 16, 2009

Q: Can we use grant funds for tuition:

A: *Yes, You may use grant funds to fund tuition as a source of last resort.*

Q: Do employers have to contribute match?

A: *No, Match may be contributed from any partner.*

Q: May funds be used to enhance partnership communication efforts?

A: *Yes*

Q: Is medical coding an eligible occupation for which to train?

A: *Yes, if you can show employer demand and the education program is offered by a community college for credit, which can count toward a certificate or degree.*

Q: Is there an in-kind match provision?

A: *30% match requirement; in kind or cash.*

Q: Can grant funds be used to hire full or part time faculty?

A: *Yes*

Q: How low down the pipeline can we start, e.g. for unemployed participants can we start with Certified Nursing Assistant training that integrates a stronger academic component into the training and post placement, helping them move towards higher education (e.g. nursing)?

A: *Yes.*

Q: If 2 WIBs apply in partnership, does the total contract amount double to \$420k?

A: *Yes*

Q: Is there an average cost per participant that you have in mind? A range of some sort.

A: *No*

Q: Can funds be used to enhance partnership communication efforts?

A: *Yes*

Q: Will you accept applications that support existing certificate programs only or may we create new ones?

A: *Yes, you may also create new certificates or courses.*

Q: Is the target population people who have not yet attained an Associate's degree?

A: *Yes*

- Q: Outcomes: Would entering the CNA phase of the program count toward outcomes? Do participants have to get into a nursing program during the grant period?
- A: *A goal is to help participants enroll in and complete certificates that will lead to employment. Some of the participants will continue to take courses after finding employment. We anticipate that some participants will enroll in certificate programs that they will not complete before the end of the grant period.*
- Q: Letter of intent: If we intend to submit an application for round one in December but then decide instead to submit an application for round two in January, does this make us ineligible for 2nd round?
- A: *No. Please indicate in your letter of intent if you are not certain in which round you are going to submit your application.*
- Q: Can two WIBs apply as a partnership e.g. if they both draw on the same community college?
- A: *Yes*
- Q: Will WIBs applying for the grant funds will be encouraged to use any SOMWBA-certified firms in their applications and will state AMP requirements be followed?
- A: *The requirements you noted are for procurements done through state agencies, and neither Commonwealth Corporation nor the Workforce Investment Boards that will be sub-contracting are state agencies, therefore there is no such requirement under this solicitation.*
- Q: Can a new curriculum be created for the purposes of certification exam prep?
- A: *Yes, if it is part of a certificate or degree program that provides academic credit.*
- Q: Would you fund an application that targeted only incumbent under-employed participants?
- A: *A stronger application would also include some focus on training and placing unemployed participants.*
- Q: If one partner received another grant for a similar purpose, could it count as match? Can you use ARRA funds for match? Can you match with WIA formula monies?
- A: *You may use ARRA funds or WIA formula funds as match. However, all applications should work to include some match from private and/or employer sources.*
- Q: May the following occupations be a target of this application? Mental Health, Exercise Science, Public Health, Human Service and Direct Care workers?
- A: *Applications may target any occupation(s) that fall within the broad healthcare industry. Grant applications must provide strong evidence of employer demand for graduates of the funded certificates as well as intent from the employer partners to hire successful graduates of the grant funded training/education.*
- Q: May WIB's submit more than one application?
- A: *No*

- Q. Should all 3 goals in the grant application be given the same equal emphasis?
- A. *Of primary focus is the training and placement of unemployed participants and the advancement of incumbent workers into higher paying positions. The proposal should balance that employment focus with the other goals of curriculum modification and partnership development.*
- Q. What is the targeted employment placement goal:
- A. *Your goal should be that at least 75% of enrollees get a job, or for incumbent participants, a new job with a wage gain.*
- Q. I noticed that incumbent (employed) workers were one of the target populations for this grant. Is there any income eligibility limit for incumbent worker participants?
- A. *This grant application uses "statewide ARRA (Governor's 15%) funds" and does allow incumbent employees to be participants. There is no income eligibility limit for these incumbent worker participants.*
- Q. We have an employer who would like to use their current academic partner (a private Institution of Higher Education) for the training, because they already have an existing collaboration, can we use them instead of the Community College?"
- A. *You may include a private institution of higher education in the partnership. In addition, we require that your local Community College is a partner in your proposed initiative.*