

**House of Corrections Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program
FY'17 Appropriation**

RFQ Questions & Answers

Updated 2/22/17 - FINAL - All New Questions & Answers in Red

Correction

- On page 3, the Hampshire Jail and House of Correction should have been listed and has been added to the list of partners in the RFQ

Funding and Timing

Q: Do you have an estimate of how many awards you will be making, or how much you will award per grantee?

A: EOLWD anticipates awarding 1-2 grants to support existing programs under this RFQ (see page 2 Section One: E).

Q: We are a community-based organization that partners with a House of Correction and currently provides both pre-release and post-release services. May we request funding for use toward a planning process for expanded services that would be implemented after the grant period? This request might include leadership staff and evaluation team time. (Some of the expanded programming may begin by 6/30/17, but most implementation would be after that date.)

A: No, these resources are intended to support an existing program to increase capacity or scale effective demonstration programming (See Section Two: B and Section One: H). Applicants will have between three and four months to use these funds to support this programming and contracts will end June 30, 2017 (see Section One: F).

B. Eligible Lead Applicants:

Lead applicants must have an ongoing program that has demonstrated positive outcomes for returning citizens reentering the community, including placement of returning citizens in support services, education, training, and employment services. Applicants must provide evidence demonstrating the capacity to scale up the programming.

H. Allowable Use of Funding: Allowable uses of the grant funds will provide workforce development and supportive services programs targeted to individuals in or transitioning from a house of correction and may support:

- Job training for returning citizens in order to facilitate job placement
- Wage subsidies to facilitate private sector employment and professional development
- Support services and programs for court-involved youth

F. Program Duration and Expectations: Contracts will end June 30, 2017. Applicants will have

between three (3) and four (4) months to support programming and spend grant funds. Our goal is to support programming that aligns with best practice models for re-entry programming. Grant awards will support organizations that are providing all, or key components, of the successful re-entry continuum of services described in Attachment 2.

Q: I know state line item is capped at \$250k statewide. But am I missing something or do the new RFQs not provide the amount available to each of the 3 program areas?

A: There is no cap amount defined for the RFQ's and yes you are correct the total amount for the state line item is capped at \$250k.

Q: With regards to the eligible costs: are wages earned in transitional employment as training for permanent job placement an eligible cost?

A: Yes, wages earned in transitional employment models are eligible costs (see Section One: H for additional examples of allowable Uses of Funding).

Q: I and some of our community partners are dismayed at the two-week turnaround time for this grant. The procurement policy we are governed by from the state level would never allow us to have such a short turnaround time. Usually 30 days is the absolute minimum.

Is there any explanation for this?

A: Yes, the turnaround time for these RFQ's is brief. The deadline for spending these resources (June 30, 2017). Our goal is to maximize the amount of time available an award recipients would have to deliver services to re-entry populations was a difficult decision. Extending the due date would mean shortening the time an award recipient would have to delivery services to these re-entry populations.

Q: Is the \$250,000 amount for all three proposals or is funding available at \$250,000 for each proposal.

A: \$250,000 represents the entire available funds across the three RFQs to address the three populations identified in the state budget. The usage of these funds is governed by the legislative text (see Attachment 1 page 11).

Eligibility

Q: Can an agency apply to both the House of Corrections and Department of Corrections RFQ?

A: Yes, an agency can apply to both HOC and DOC RFQ's provided they meet one of the criteria listed as lead applicant (i.e., Community-based organizations, non-profit education, training or other service providers, One-Stop Career Centers, or post-secondary institutions that are working with a HOC or DOC).

Q: Aside from the House of Corrections or Dept. of Corrections are the other partnerships required?

A: No, however, there are Recommended Workforce System Partners listed on page 5

- *Workforce Development Boards and One Stop Career Centers have developed relationships and service models with Reentry Partners in many parts of the state, including Department of Corrections and House of Correction facilities. These models often include "behind the wall" pre-employment support programs, direct referrals and case management upon release and additional job placement and education/training activity to assist individuals in obtaining employment as quickly as possible.*