**Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program**

**FY’18 APPROPRIATION**

Questions & Answers

**Updated 10/16/17**

Q: The RFP states in Section 2 b. that the applicant must have a letter of support/MOU from a referral partner.  Could that come from the Department of Youth Services?  The BOG program works directly with that department, and they would be our partner if we were to target our region’s program on court-involved youth/young adults (to age 24) (an eligible target population).

A: No, Department of Youth Services would not be an eligible referral partner. The target population does include court-involved youth/young adults (to age 24), however they must be transitioning from a house of correction or department of correction.

Q: We just hired an individual that just got out of jail. Would we qualify for this program?

A: No. The purpose of the funds is to provide employment services to individuals returning to their communities after incarceration in order to help advance their participation in job training, coaching and placement activities.

Q: I am wondering if you can give any information about the range of violations of the people who would be involved in the proposed training programs.

A: Participants may have any range of violations. However, applicants should describe if they anticipate any specific focus on a particular violation and demonstrate that they have the capacity and expertise to support them to overcome any barriers specific to the nature of their violation.

Q: Could we apply with our current WCTF grant focused on reentry?  It is not yet a proven model so I don’t think it qualifies.

A: Unfortunately, we can’t provide guidance to your specific situation. However, lead applicants must have an ongoing program that has demonstrated positive outcomes for the target population, including placement in support services, education, training and employment services.

Q: We had a question on whether or not there is there is a cap on the percent allowed for indirect costs?

A: There is no cap on indirect costs. However, proposed budgets must align with the proposed program design and the proposed enrollments must be appropriate given the expense of the program. Organizations awarded funding will be required to submit an indirect cost rate plan to Commonwealth Corporation, if they have included an indirect rate in their proposal.

Q: The submission link does not work

A: Use [**https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328719**](https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328719)

Q: Is the type of organization this RFR is looking to support towards your mission to help formally incarcerated women retain unsubsidized employment?

**A:** Lead applicants must have an ongoing program that has demonstrated positive outcomes for court-involved youth in the community or returning citizens reentering the community, including placement in support services, education, training, and employment services. We are seeking to provide funding to existing, successful programs that currently provide a continuum of services necessary for the target population to secure unsubsidized employment. We are not seeking to support new program development. Given the relatively short duration of these funds, it is not expected that these funds will provide the whole continuum of services necessary for an individual to transition to the community, receive job training and supportive services and obtain unsubsidized employment. However, applicants must demonstrate that the services they propose to provide will advance the participants served so that they are further along in the continuum by the end of the grant period.

Q: Do community colleges need to provide a COGS?

A: Please note that community colleges, public vocational technical high schools and public state universities serving as the lead applicant do not need to submit a Certificate of Good Standing.

Q: Under Section C – Business Partners: Is it possible to use a temp agency as a business partner to broker job placements for participants?

A: Yes, however, the applicant must explain the role of the temp agency in supporting participants’ transition to permanent, payroll employment and provide information about the typical duration of temp employment before conversion to payroll employment.

**Q:** If the institution is the lead agent, is it responsible for invoicing Commonwealth Corporation for all services provided in the grant – or would vendor invoices be required (for example, if transportation is required as part of the project – and it is subbed out to a private transportation company)?

**A:** Yes, the lead applicant is responsible for budgeting for all necessary expenses to support the proposed program. The lead applicant is responsible for coordinating with any other partners, including payment. However, the lead applicant must provide sufficient evidence of expenses, including copies of paid invoices to other vendors.

Q: May we propose continuing an existing re-entry project, funded last year, or do we need to propose entirely new projects?

A: We are seeking to provide funding to existing, successful programs that currently provide a continuum of services necessary for the target population to secure unsubsidized employment. As long as the program meets the requirements specified in the RFP, there is nothing precluding you from proposing to provide the same program this year.