**Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities**

**FY’21 Appropriation**

**Questions & Answers**

**Updated 2.23.2021 - New Questions/Answers in Purple - #3 - FINAL**

*As a reminder, all applications are due electronically on March 2, 2021 by 5:00 PM EST via the following link:* [*https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328871*](https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328871)*. We will no longer be accepting questions regarding content, we are available to discuss logistical issues with submitting applications. Please refer to the contact information on the online form.*

**Eligible Lead Applicants and Partners**

Q: What defines a community organization in this RFP? For example, are Workforce Boards and Career Centers allowed to apply as lead applicant?

A: MassHire Workforce Boards and Career Centers are eligible to apply as the lead applicant if they have 501(C)3 status and meet the definition outlined for a community-based organization. For example, a city/municipal entity would not be an eligible lead applicant but could participate as a partner organization. We have clarified our stated definition as follows:

*The term ‘‘community-based organization’’ means a 501(C)3 organization, which may include a faith-based organization, that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that has demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of individuals with barriers to employment.*

Q: Is the grant for all agencies in the state who provide vocational assistance and training?

A: No. This specific funding opportunity is designed to support community-based organizations with:

* demonstrated success and expertise in preparing young adults with disabilities for employment, placing them in unsubsidized positions, and providing post-placement support that leads to employment retention, and
* evidence of effective partnerships with employers that engages them in program design and delivery and has resulted in placements and retained employment of young adults with disabilities in targeted occupations at the employers’ workplaces.

**Supportive Services**

Q: In Section One C Allowable Costs reference is made to transportation. Are providing MBTA passes an appropriate cost? Do MBTA passes satisfy transportation requirement of the RFP?

A: Yes. Providing MBTA passes are an allowable cost. Applicants should provide a clear rationale for including such an expense allocation in alignment with their program participant needs.

Q: The RFP in Section One Subsection C lists support services including childcare. Do daycare centers satisfy this requirement? If additional support is required, please provide examples.

A: Yes. Providing support for childcare through daycare centers is an allowable cost. To clarify, we do not expect the inclusion of childcare support if it is not relevant to your particular program. In any case, applicants should provide a clear rationale for including specific expense allocations in alignment with their program participant needs.

**Target Population**

**Q: Will applicants lose points if we narrow our geography or age range targets?**

**A: Applicants will not lose points for specifying a narrower age range for their target population. Applicants may provide remote services; however, they should clearly indicate their target region for recruitment as well as job placements. In either case, applicants should be clear on who they intend to serve as well as their track record in serving this target population.**

**Funding Availability and Grant Award**

Q: Have you considered extending the grant submission due date?

A: At this time, our submission due date remains the same - *all applications are due electronically on March 2, 2021 by 5:00 PM EST via the following link:* [*https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328871*](https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328871)*.*

Q: Can grant funds be spent after June 30, 2021?

A: Due to the annual structure of this funding, all awarded programs will need to spend their allocation of grant funds by June 30, 2021 and submit for reimbursement by mid-July to be reimbursed for these program expenses.

Q: Please clarify the maximum anticipated grant award.

A: Applicants may not request more than $75,000. We encourage applicants to apply for the maximum grant award they believe they could expend to serve their target population in approximately 3 months.