**Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities**

**FY’22 Appropriation**

**Questions & Answers**

**Updated 9.24.2021 - New Questions/Answers in Purple - #1**

*As a reminder, all applications are due electronically October 18, 2022 by 5:00 PM EST via the following link:* [*https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328907*](https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328871)*.*

**Eligible Lead Applicants and Partners**

**Q: We were awarded this grant in the past, in service of a different population and a different industry. Would that preclude us from receiving this grant again?**

**A: Previous recipients of a grant award through the Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities, Learn to Earn, the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, or other Commonwealth Corporation grant programs are eligible to apply.**

**The eligible lead applicants are community-based organizationswith:**

* **demonstrated success and expertise in preparing young adults with disabilities for employment, providing them with occupationally specific skills training, placing them in unsubsidized paid 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 unsubsidized paid employment of young adults with disabilities in targeted occupations at the employers’ workplaces.**

**Target Population**

**Q: Could this program be used to serve extremely "underemployed" individuals and help them move from minimum wage to real careers?**

**A: The target population to be served with this grant is unemployed individuals. A program that serves underemployed individuals does not fit the criteria of the RFP. Please see Section 3A on page 3 of the RFP for additional details regarding the required target population criteria.**

**Q: What types of disabilities do you anticipate the youth will have?**

**A: There are no restrictions on the types of disabilities participants served through this funding will have. A non-exhaustive list of disability categories may include cognitive, physical, psycho-social, autism spectrum, deaf/hearing loss, blind, etc.**

**Funding Availability and Grant Award**

**Q: In considering this funding, we know from previous experiences with workplace development programs, our cohort of participants would be relatively small. We anticipate serving between eight and ten individuals through this funding. We wondered if that size cohort would be okay or if the client numbers have to be higher.**

**A: There is no minimum number of participants in a cohort.**

**Q: We have a number of private sector partners who do provide opportunities for our clients. However, because of COVID, some of the national corporations have still not been able to have our clients back in their offices. We also feel that we need to be mindful of developing successful outcomes and therefore, would like to take the time between now and next year to plan for this initiative. I assume a planning grant through this funding would not be possible as our program would not begin until July and August of 2022. We wondered if you might have ideas of other public/private funders who we might apply to for those planning resources.**

**A: At this time,** **the Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities does not offer planning grants through this funding. For potential applicants interested in future funding opportunities, we encourage you to contact your** [**local workforce board**](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/connect-with-your-local-masshire-workforce-board) **and the Statewide Employment Services team** [**at MRC**](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mrc-key-contacts)**, and you will also be informed of future funding opportunities through the Commonwealth Corporation** [**available funding page**](https://commcorp.org/available-funding/)**.**