Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program FY22 Procurement Final Q&A

**Q: Are current Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program grantees funded through June 2022 eligible to apply for these funds?**

*A: Applicants that are not currently Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program grant recipients will be prioritized for funding. However, existing Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program grantees may still apply but will be required to participate in the 2-month program design technical assistance process outlined in this RFP if awarded.*

**Q: Can you clarify whether grant-funded program services can be delivered pre-release? The RFP states “the target population includes individuals who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both.” I’d like to know if the program start date can be pre-release.**

*A: The target population includes individuals who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both. Individuals in pre-release are eligible for grant funded services provided they will be released within 60 days of starting the program. For example, Client A could start their engagement with your program behind the wall in October, provided that they have an anticipated release date back into the community by December and would be able to continue accessing your program.*

**Q: What are the topic areas that are missing from the current agenda or applications, so I can submit proposals that bring the most meaning to participants in the Re-Entry program?**

A: *The Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program is an initiative of Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta in support of Governor Baker’s effort to improve workforce outcomes among individuals returning to their communities after incarceration (i.e. returning citizens).*

**Q: What are the criteria you use to choose grant applicants?**

A: *Commonwealth Corporation is seeking applications from partnerships that have demonstrated experience, success, and current capacity in providing occupationally focused training and placement programs for returning citizens.* *The target population includes individuals who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both. Applicants must demonstrate that the services they propose to provide will result in job placements, as well as 30 days of placement retention for participants by the end of the grant period. A rubric can be found on page 16 of the RFP document, and the application requirements & narrative can be found on pages 18-36 of the RFP document.*

**Q: What organizations have you partnered with in the past to provide this programming?**

1. ***Eligible Applicants:*** *The following organizations are eligible to apply as lead applicants on behalf of a partnership:*
   1. *Community-based organizations, particularly those with a track record of serving returning citizens*
   2. *Non-profit education, training, or other service providers*
   3. *MassHire Workforce Board*
   4. *MassHire Career Center,*
   5. *House of Corrections/Department of Correction facility*

**Q: Can you tell me more about the unique needs of the people who would be receiving the training?**

*A: Commonwealth Corporation is seeking applications from partnerships that have demonstrated experience, success, and current capacity in providing occupationally focused training and placement programs for returning citizens. We are particularly interested in supporting the design and refinement of innovative, culturally responsive models seeking to improve the learning and training strategies necessary to support successful outcomes among returning citizens. This includes program designs that demonstrate awareness and expertise with the specific demographic needs of those disproportionately impacted by incarceration; and those shown to have historically adverse post-incarceration outcomes and/or higher levels of recidivism.*

**Q: For the target population, would you consider individuals in the pre-trial deposition phase vs. post-deposition phase?**

*A: Applicants funded under this grant will serve individuals who come from the following populations:*

* *Individuals in a Department of Correction facility who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both.*
* *Individuals in a House of Corrections facility who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both.*

**Q: For the target population, would you consider individuals sentenced by the Office to Trial court sentenced to Community Correction Centers vs. House of Corrections or Department of Corrections**

*A:* *Applicants funded under this grant will serve individuals who come from the following populations:*

* *Individuals in a* ***Department of Correction facility****who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both.*
* *Individuals in a* ***House of Corrections facility*** *who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months prior to enrolling in a program or a combination or both.*

**Q: Where or why are participants re-entry?**

*A: The Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program is an initiative of Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta in support of Governor Baker’s effort to improve workforce outcomes* ***among individuals returning to their communities after incarceration (i.e. returning citizens).*** *Commonwealth Corporation is seeking applications from partnerships that have demonstrated experience, success, and current capacity in providing occupationally focused training and placement programs for returning citizens.* ***The target population includes individuals who will be released within 60 days of a program start date or individuals who were released no earlier than 9 months from either an House of Correction or Department of Corrections facility.***

**Q: Will we be informed of this information (why participants are “re-entry”)?**

*A: Lead Applicants and Required Partnership Members are responsible for the identification of, recruitment, engagement, and placement outcomes of eligible clients. The following organizations are eligible to apply as lead applicants on behalf of a partnership:*

* + *Community-based organizations, particularly those with a track record of serving returning citizens*
  + *Non-profit education, training, or other service providers*
  + *MassHire Workforce Board*
  + *MassHire Career Center,*
  + *House of Corrections/Department of Correction facility*

***Required Partnership Members:*** *Collectively, the members of the partnership must have demonstrated experience, success, and current capacity in providing occupationally focused training and placement programs for returning citizens reentering the community, including support services, education, training, and employment services. Partnership members are additionally expected to have demonstrated capacity to recruit and partner with racially & culturally diverse, community-reflective program participants and organizations to address the needs of the target population.  Eligible lead applicants must also demonstrate that they have a relationship with an organization that has access to and will provide referrals to the program. The partners must sign a Memorandum of Agreement and provide a proposed client/cohort flow of services. (See Attachment 4 for details). These organizations must include partners from each of the following categories:*

* ***A minimum of two businesses with operations in Massachusetts and that employ Massachusetts residents in the target occupation(s).****Successful applicants will demonstrate that they have relationships with local businesses committed to providing placements for participants at the end of the grant period.  Selected Business partners need to have demonstrated vacancies in their specific industry and be interested in using this program to fill said vacancies. These businesses must sign a Memorandum of Agreement. Applications that include specific hiring commitments from businesses will receive favorable consideration. If workers in the target occupation(s) at participating businesses are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the union must also be a partner and sign the Memorandum of Agreement. Applicants are encouraged to identify additional partners that are critical to the sector and success of the target population and that will add value to the partnership.*
* ***A training provider with demonstrated expertise in providing occupational skills training integrated with work readiness/soft skills development and placing individuals in the target occupation****.*
* ***Community-based social service providers with a demonstrated expertise in engaging and supporting returning citizens in succeeding in transitioning to the community and to employment******as evidenced by a proven track record of practicing culturally competent care in the community.***
* ***The regional MassHire Workforce Board and/ or MassHire Career Center***
* ***The House of Corrections or Department of Correction facility in the region***

**Q: Do we qualify to apply as a lead applicant as an LLC, having never partnered with the Commonwealth Corporation?**

*A:**The following organizations are eligible to apply as lead applicants on behalf of a partnership:*

* + *Community-based organizations, particularly those with a track record of serving returning citizens*
  + *Non-profit education, training, or other service providers*
  + *MassHire Workforce Board*
  + *MassHire Career Center,*
  + *House of Corrections/Department of Correction facility*

Q. The RFP discusses a budget form (5a), budget narrative form (5b), and outcome chart (5c). Where are forms 5b and 5c located?

**A. 5b and 5c are on the second and third tabs respectively of the excel document located in the budget and outcome form link on the CommCorp** [**“Available Funding”**](https://commcorp.org/available-funding/) **page under “Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program - Implementation” section.**