

**Are providers required to be licensed by the state of Illinois and included on the state's Eligible Training Provider List, or are out-of-state distance education providers eligible?**

Providers do not need to be licensed by the state of Illinois or be on the state's Eligible Training Provider List. Out-of-state distance education providers are eligible to apply if they are legally recognized entities with a proven track record of job readiness training for Opportunity Youth (RFP, p. 16).

**Can a proposed program duration be shorter than the specified 15-month period, and will it still be considered for evaluation?**

Programs must adhere to the duration of 15 to 18 months as outlined in the RFP (RFP, p. 16). Proposals that do not align with this timeframe will not meet the funding requirements.

**Is it permissible to start participants at different times throughout the program, or must all participants begin at the same time?**

The RFP does not require that all participants start simultaneously. Staggered enrollments are permissible, and cohort models are encouraged to support participant engagement and peer interaction (RFP, p. 16).

**How many grants will be awarded through this RFP, and what is the maximum funding amount per grant?**

**A4:** A minimum of two grants will be awarded, with each grant not exceeding \$250,000. The total available funding is \$500,000 (RFP, p. 16).

**Will the assessments mentioned during the presentation (e.g., TABE 11/12, CASAS) be provided or detailed in the application?**

**A5:** The RFP requires the use of assessments to track participant progress, such as Educational Functioning Level (EFL) gains. Proposers should source and identify their own assessment tools to ensure they align with program objectives and WIOA standards (RFP, p. 19-20). Acceptable assessments may include commonly recognized tools such as TABE 11/12 and CASAS.

**Can proposals include multiple program locations in Lake County, or is a single location preferred?**

Proposals can include multiple locations within Lake County, provided that these are detailed in the submission to ensure comprehensive service coverage (RFP, p. 20).

**What does the \$5,000 median earnings performance measure mean, and what period does it cover?**

The \$5,000 median earnings performance measure refers to the median earnings of participants employed during the second quarter after exiting the program, as part of WIOA-defined outcomes (RFP, p. 27). This measure is assessed for the entire participant pool.

**What guidelines must employers meet to qualify as potential partners for internships or on-the-job training?**

Employers must comply with WIOA guidelines and the Fair Labor Standards Act when hosting internships or on-the-job training. This ensures that all work-based learning experiences meet legal and quality standards (RFP, p. 19).

**Will proposals with an external evaluation team receive more consideration than those with an internal evaluation team?**

The RFP does not express a preference for external over internal evaluation teams. Proposers should include a robust evaluation plan for continuous improvement and alignment with program objectives (RFP, p. 22).

**Do participants need to be residents of Lake County, or can they be from neighboring counties like Cook County?**

Participants must meet WIOA eligibility criteria, but the RFP does not explicitly restrict residency to Lake County. The program focuses on serving Opportunity Youth within the designated service area (RFP, p. 16).

**Under Priority Considerations starting on Page 24, the bullet on Page 25 mentions "Conduct 3-hour orientation for enrollees." What does the orientation need to include?**

The orientation must ensure that all participants are fully registered in the program with complete and verified eligibility documentation that aligns with WIOA requirements. The orientation should cover program expectations, available services, work-based learning opportunities, and compliance requirements. Records of completed orientations, including participant attendance and feedback, should be submitted (RFP, p. 25).

**Is there a specific template to follow for the budget or any other application materials? If not, would it be acceptable to submit the budget in an Excel spreadsheet format?**

The RFP does not specify a required template for the budget or other application materials. Applicants may submit the budget in an Excel spreadsheet format, provided it clearly outlines cost categories, allocations, and justifications (RFP, p. 22).

**For partnerships and collaborations, must the partners be nonprofit organizations, or can for-profit entities also be included?**

Partnerships and collaborations are not limited to nonprofit organizations. For-profit entities may be included as partners if they support the program's objectives and comply with WIOA requirements (RFP, p. 21).