

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Governor’s Reserve Funds

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Request for Workforce Proposals (RFP)

Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reforms and modernizes workforce development. Seizing the extraordinary opportunity offered by WIOA, Mississippi created an innovative State Plan to produce a more efficient and effective workforce system in our state. We encourage you to read our plan – *The Mississippi Works Smart Start Career Pathway* – at [2022 Mississippi WIOA State Plan](#).

To further spur workforce innovation by the states, WIOA provides Governor’s Reserve Funds to support employment and training activities, as defined in WIOA Section 129. Grants will be awarded from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$150,000 to successful applicants.

Purpose

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is seeking workforce proposals for the use of WIOA Governor’s Reserve Funds. Proposals should meet the focused area of In-School-Youth while being in compliance with WIOA and align with the Mississippi State Plan. These proposals should demonstrate how the idea/concept will assist the State in meeting the goals set forth in the State Plan, as well as the WIOA law and regulations.

MDES will evaluate submitted proposals for allowability, innovation, and alignment with the goals of the State Plan. MDES will make recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

A request for workforce proposal is not an implied award of grant funds. MDES reserves the right to recommend project proposals that best meet the objectives of the Governor and the intent of the WIOA State Plan, and will have the greatest economic benefit for the State. Applicants showing collaborative partnerships across industry, education and community organizations will be prioritized. Proposals will be scored and the highest scoring proposals not approved will be prioritized for future opportunities.

Specific Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply?

- K-12 Public Educational Institutions
- Non-profits
- Community Organizations

Eligible Projects

- Grants to grow or create STEM labs for K-12 schools

- Grants for K-12 and postsecondary learning experiences (robotics and automation competitions and camps)
- Grants for K-12 work-based learning opportunities, including summer on-the-job experiences

Instructions

Proposals should use the attached template and **must** include the following information:

1. Identify the proposing organization and title of the activity.
2. Specify the contact information; include contact's name, title, address, phone number, and email.
3. Identify proposed beginning and end date of the workforce proposal. The duration of the proposal should not exceed 18 months.
4. Provide cost of the proposal. Proposers are encouraged to use leveraged funds to support the effort. Proposers may identify resources such as foundation, private, State, and Federal funding to support proposal activities.
5. Provide a proposal narrative no longer than 4 pages that includes the following:
 - a. Describe activities and services to be provided.
 - b. Describe proposal's goals and how they align with Mississippi's WIOA State Plan.
 - c. Describe measurable outcomes that will be delivered.

Important Notice of Change:

This RFP contains the requirements that respondents must meet to submit a responsive bid. Proposers must have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) number and active registration with <https://sam.gov> to be considered for funding. The federal government uses an UIE for each entity that does business with the federal government. For more than two decades, DUNS has served as the unique entity ID; however, DUNS ended on April 4, 2022, when the federal government completed the transition to the new UEI that is issued within the System for Award Management (SAM). Successful respondents will serve as contractors of federal WIOA funds authorized and administered by the United States Department of Labor (DOL) and under the oversight of the SMW. Therefore, successful bidders must have an UIE before a subgrant can be fully executed.

Submission

Proposers may submit workforce proposal forms in electronic format (Word or .pdf files) using the attached "Template for RFP" to Donna Hollis at dhollis@mdes.ms.gov at the MDES Office of Grant Management. The subject line should read "PY22 Workforce Proposals for Governor's Reserve Funds." All proposals must be submitted by the close of business on **July 15, 2022**.