

**Governor's
Workforce
Board**
Rhode Island



Today's Vision... Tomorrow's Opportunity.

Workforce Innovation Grants

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Pre-Proposal Conference
April 9, 2015



Workforce Innovation Grants *Meeting Agenda*

- **Introductions**
- **Governor's Workforce Board**
- **Workforce Innovation Grants**
 - **Background**
 - **Proposal components**
 - **Review process**



Workforce Innovation Grant ***Governor's Workforce Board***

- **21-member board**
- **Plan, coordinate, fund and evaluate workforce development activities for State of Rhode Island**
- **Biennial Employment & Training Plan**
 - **Employer engagement**
 - **Work-readiness**
 - **Career Pathways**
 - **System integration**



Workforce Innovation Grants *Background*

- **Business / education & training partnerships**
- **Training for high-growth, high-demand occupations and industries**
- **Target populations: unemployed / under-employed; barriers to employment**
- **Core program components: work-readiness, occupational skills and credentials, experiential learning; career pathways; supportive services**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Background*

**Round 1: April, 2013 – June 30, 2014; \$1.9 million;
10 projects**

**Round 2: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015; \$1.75 million;
13 projects**

**Round 3: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016; up to \$2.3
million; grants will range from \$80,000 - \$200,000;
renewable for a second year without reapplying
based on performance**



Workforce Innovation Grants *Background*

➤ **Eligible applicants**

- **Employers and employer associations**
- **Unions and labor-management entities**
- **Training & education providers (not-for-profit)**
- **Public workforce system partners**

➤ **Required partners**

- **Employer(s)**
- **Education & training provider(s)**
- **Additional partners as appropriate**



Workforce Innovation Grants *Background*

➤ **Participants**

- **Unemployed or underemployed adults with barriers to employment**
- **Out-of-school youth with barriers to employment**

➤ **Innovation**

- **Creates or builds upon new and evolving strategies, methods, and partnerships**
- **Model for future program design and investment strategies**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Format of Narrative**

- **Not more than 20 pages**
- **1.5 line spacing**
- **1" margins on all sides**
- **Arial 11 point font**
- **Page limit does not include budget and budget narrative, timeline, Memorandum of Agreement, staff resumes, FY15 performance, or other appropriate information**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

- **Abstract (5 points)**
 - **Clear, concise, one-page overview**

- **Partnership Profile (10 points)**
 - **Description of each**
 - **Role of each**
 - **Relevant experience and expertise of each**
 - **Memorandum of Agreement (see attachment)**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Needs Statement (10 points)**

- **Employer needs**

- ⇒ **Demand projections**

- ⇒ **Skills gaps**

- ⇒ **Strategic importance of occupation and/or industry**

- **Participant needs**

- ⇒ **Demographics**

- ⇒ **Barriers**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Action Plan (45 points)**

➤ **Description of Program (35 points)**

- **Recruitment and assessment of participants**

- **Curriculum overview**

- **Work-readiness**

⇒ **Priority: National Career Readiness Certificate**

- **Experiential learning**

⇒ **Priority: Paid work experiences**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Description of Program (continued)**

- **Occupational skills and credentials**
- **Career pathways**
- **Supportive services**
- **Job placement**
 - ⇒ **Priority: Full-time jobs; > 150% of minimum wage**
 - ⇒ **Separate funding may be available for paid work experiences and hiring incentives**
- **Staff capacity**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

- **Theory and evidence (5 points)**
 - **Research, evidence, prior experience**

- **Timeline (5 points)**
 - **Planning, implementation, outcomes**
 - **Grant activity must begin no later than August 1, 2015**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Outcomes (10 points)**

- **Quantitative and qualitative**
- **Participant outcomes** (see attachment)
- **Employer benefits**
- **System change**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

➤ **Leveraging and Sustainability (6 points)**

- **Leveraging**: Builds upon the mission, activities, funding and other resources of the partners
- **Sustainability**: Potential to reallocate or identify funds to sustain partnership activities; Potential to be included on Eligible Training Provider List



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

- **Budget and Budget Narrative (10 points)**
 - **Line item budget / supported by narrative (see attachment)**
 - **Allowable costs**
 - **Disallowable costs**
 - **20% cash match required**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

- **Administrative and Fiscal Capacity (4 points)**
 - **Statement of qualifications**
 - **Resume or job description of project manager**
 - **Internal monitoring**
 - **Data collection and reporting**
 - **Third-party evaluation**
 - **Audited financial statements**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal components*

- **FY15 Performance (+/- 5 bonus points)**
 - **For current Innovative Partnership grantees only**
 - **This section should not exceed 4 pages, 1.5 line spacing, Arial 11 point font with 1” margins on all sides**
 - **Describe what worked and/or what could be improved for each of the program components**
 - **Review of quarterly performance reports**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Attachments*

- **Budget Form**
- **Outcome Targets**
- **W-9 Form**
- **Memoranda of Agreement**
- **Proposal Cover Sheet**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Submission of proposal*

- **Deadline: Monday May 11, 2015 at 3:00 PM**
- **Submit to Governor's Workforce Board**
- **In person or by US Mail only**
- **Six copies (1 with original signatures)**
- **Late proposals will NOT be accepted**
- **A PDF of the entire proposal must also be emailed to scarello@dlt.ri.gov prior to the deadline**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Proposal review process*

- **Committee of qualified and trained reader-raters**
- **Scores are averaged**
- **Scores of less than 80 are ineligible**
- **Proposals are ranked and recommendations are presented to GWB for final decisions (target date: June 17)**
- **Final contract, including costs and deliverables, may be subject to negotiation**



Workforce Innovation Grant *Questions & Answers*

- May be submitted by email to gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov
- Deadline for questions is Friday, April 17, 2015
- All questions and answers will be posted on GWB website (www.gwb.ri.gov)
- Or, you can ask your questions NOW!