

**DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL**

NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY

DC Workforce Intermediary – Construction Pre-Apprenticeship and Support Services

The DC Workforce Investment Council (WIC) is soliciting applications for performance-based grants to provide workforce services that support District residents in gaining access to and retaining apprenticeship and other career opportunities in the construction sector; as well as ensuring construction businesses have access to a pipeline of skilled workers.

The organizations receiving grants under this Request for Applications (RFA) will be responsible for providing services under one of two program models: (1) pre-apprenticeship training for at least 50 jobseekers that incorporates federally endorsed curricula and credentials and prepares participants for career opportunities in the construction sector; and (2) support services for at least 50 and up to 100 jobseekers participating in construction workforce efforts supported through the District, assisting them with employment barriers both during training and after placement in apprenticeship or other employment. Grantees will work in partnership with DOES' planned Center for Construction Careers, which will be housed in the DC American Job Center – Southeast in Ward 8, and will provide intake, tracking, and placement services to assist construction employers in identifying skilled workers.

In addition, funded providers will be responsible for participating in quarterly meetings of the Construction Industry Advisory Committee - a WIC convened group consisting of representatives from employers, labor unions, industry associations, and DOES that help guide the efforts of grantee(s) under this solicitation; and working to incorporate the Committee's feedback to improve program services and partnerships.

Funds must be used solely for the purposes noted above and further specified in this solicitation's forthcoming RFA, and will not be disbursed until grantee(s) achieve required performance outcomes.

Eligibility: Organizations, or multiple organizations in partnership, that are eligible to apply for this grant include public or private organizations with demonstrated effectiveness in providing the requested services and meeting the employment needs of the target population, including, but not limited to:

- Non-profit, community-, or faith-based organizations;
- Institutions of higher education;
- Trade associations or chambers of commerce;
- Construction industry employers (provided they are willing to place participants with other industry employers);
- Private, for-profit service providers; or
- Labor unions or labor-management partnerships.

Additionally, to be eligible to receive funds under this solicitation, an organization must be current on all taxes and liabilities owed to the District, or have a plan to resolve such taxes and liabilities that is satisfactory to the grantor.

Length of Award: Grant awards will be for one (1) year, with an option for up to four (4) renewal years depending on grantee performance and at the sole discretion of the WIC.

Available Funding: The amount available for this award is up to \$225,000.00 per grantee for up to two grants; \$450,000 in total. Funding for this award is contingent on continued fiscal year 2015 appropriations and their approval by Congress; as well as availability of funds. This notice does not commit the WIC to make an award.

Anticipated Number of Awards: The WIC anticipates making up to two (2) awards under this RFA and funding a maximum of one grant per each of the two program models: (1) pre-apprenticeship training and (2) support services. Applicants may propose to deliver services under only one of these two models, and may only submit one application to provide services under this solicitation.

Selection Criteria: Each application determined to be responsive will be evaluated by a team of reviewers. Team members will represent a range of expertise in workforce development and the construction industry and may include WIC staff; other DC agency staff; and professionals from national and local organizations and businesses. The review team will evaluate and score applications based on the points assigned to each section of the application. After scoring and ranking all responsive applications, the review team will recommend up to two (2) applicants for funding.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria		Points
i.	Program Design	40
ii.	Organizational Capacity and Staffing	15
iii.	Past Performance	20
iv.	Performance Outcomes and Budget	15
v.	Data Collection and Evaluation	10
Total		100

The review team will make recommendations regarding the selection of grantees and will present the findings to the WIC Executive Committee, which will make the final award decision. Any person, including any member of the Executive Committee, with a potential conflict of interest will be recused from participating in the selection process.

Awards will be made to the highest rated applicants whose applications are technically viable. However, the WIC reserves the right to make awards to ensure:

- Program diversity to ensure that programs vary by factors such as type of occupational training and educational offerings.
- Alignment with other public funding and/or initiatives.

The WIC reserves the right to request modifications to applications based on questions raised during the review process, and to award less than the full amount of funding requested if this is determined to be in the best interests of the District. The grant award shall be subject to:

- Demonstration that the applicant has, or will have by the conclusion of negotiations, site control of an appropriate program facility.
- Timely completion of grant negotiations between WIC and the selected respondent.

Application Process: The RFA will be released on Friday, June 20, 2014. The RFA will be posted on the District's Grant Clearinghouse Website at <http://opgs.dc.gov/page/opgs-district-grants-clearinghouse>. All applications must be submitted online by following the links and instructions posted to this website.

An information meeting on the RFA will be held on July 9, 2014 at 3 p.m. at the Department of Employment Services Community Room, located at 4058 Minnesota Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20019. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

For additional information, contact LaToyia Hampton, Grants Manager of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, at Latoyia.hampton@dc.gov.

The deadline for submission is Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 4:00 PM EST.

Final determination of grant awards will be made by Friday, August 22, 2014.