

CONSTRUCTING FUTURES RFP#:R-1011-15-8024

Clarification/Additional Information from ODJFS

Since the release of this RFP, ODJFS has determined that additional clarifying information may be useful to potential applicants in preparing their proposals. This includes the following:

1. As stated in the RFP, the programs funded by this grant must serve low-income non-working adults and/or dislocated workers. The proportion of dislocated workers to other adults in any given program is expected to reflect the demographics of the applicant's labor market area. If conditions warrant, it is conceivable that a program would serve one or the other group almost exclusively. But applicants must base their recruitment and service strategies on a responsible use of labor market data available from sources listed in Section 1.9, "Applicants' Library" and are expected to demonstrate how those data have been used.
2. To be accepted for consideration, an application in response to this RFP **MUST** be submitted by a partnership that includes one or more entities from each of the following groups: Registered Apprenticeship sponsors; campuses of the University System of Ohio; One-Stop employment and training centers operating under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA); and community-based organizations specializing in career development for female and minority workers. Furthermore, an eligible application **MUST** identify a Registered Apprenticeship sponsor as the partnership's lead entity responsible for administration and reporting, and a local WIA Board (LWIB) as fiscal agent for the proposed project. An application lacking any of these components will be rejected from consideration.

For the purpose of this RFP, an LWIB's role as fiscal agent is served by whatever entity functions as the fiscal agent for WIA program purposes in that LWIB's jurisdiction. In a WIA Area, the Chief Elected Official (CEO) in the county, city, or multi-jurisdictional area will appoint Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members comprised of representation from business, labor, education, and other community-based organizations. In addition, the CEO designates an administrative entity and fiscal agent to operate the WIA program. The administrative entity and fiscal agent may be one entity or separate entities. In Ohio, these entities include the County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS), the Community Action Agencies (CAA), county or city Economic Development units, private non-profit organizations, or other legal entities. Only WIA Area fiscal agents may serve as fiscal agents for the Constructing Futures Grants.

3. This RFP has both short and long-term goals, and therefore calls for the use of both temporary and sustained resources. Section 1.1 of the RFP notes that the purpose of ARRA includes "putting people to work as quickly as possible," but also "supporting the development of a financially and environmentally sustainable economy." Furthermore, even the short-term success of an adult pre-apprenticeship program will tend to require the quality resources--human and material--that reflect a long-term commitment to training.

The exact balance between temporary and sustained resources in a program's budget must be determined by each potential grantee. But applicants are advised to demonstrate an ability to meet both the immediate and continuing needs of programming.

4. The RFP states that to be eligible for consideration under this grant, applicants must file an expression of interest in obtaining ARRA recovery funds, by registering at the State of Ohio Federal Stimulus Initiative website, and must enclose with their proposal a copy of the resulting e-mail confirmation message. The deadline for registering an expression of interest is "by July 24, 2009" which for the purpose of this RFP means that the e-mail confirmation must reflect that registration occurred before the midnight that falls between July 24th and July 25th.
5. RFP Section 1.8 states that requests for copies of RFPs, applications, score sheets, or contracts for similar past projects will be considered Public Records Requests (PRRs). However, it should be noted that no previous grant project sponsored by ODJFS, was similar to Constructing Futures in any substantial way. The provision regarding PRRs for similar past projects, was included in the RFP to emphasize that such requests, by their nature, are not clarification questions that could be submitted during the Q&A process described in the RFP.

The Constructing Futures initiative is unprecedented for Ohio. As noted in RFP Section 3.1 B., "adult pre-apprenticeship is considered an innovative area of programming, and is not automatically assumed to be fully addressed by plans developed for other target groups or forms of instruction." Accordingly, applicants should be aware that relying heavily on another ODJFS grant project as a model for Constructing Futures, runs the risk of not adequately meeting the criteria for the present RFP.

6. Applicants should be aware that the RFP is the authoritative source in the preparation of applicants' proposals. ODJFS is not responsible for the accuracy of any information regarding this RFP that was obtained or gathered through a source other than the Q&A document and/or content provided in the RFP.

This concludes this clarification for the Constructing Futures RFP#: R-1011-15-8024.