

2021 Performance Support Grants RFA Questions

22-Jul-21

Question No.	Question	DWD Response
1	Should line spacing be single, double-spaced, or something else?	The line spacing should be single spaced.
2	Please clarify the amount of funding available. Will \$26M or \$6M be available?	DWD anticipates that it will award approximately \$26M in WIOA non-formula funds through a combination of available state and federal funding (WIOA discretionary, state Workforce Ready Grant (WRG), state Employer Training Grant (ETG)). Of that combined \$26M, DWD anticipates that it will award approximately \$6M in WIOA discretionary dollars as Performance Support Grants.
3	Page 3, Grant Period, states "all funds must be obligated by March 31, 2023." Is this intended to be expended and not obligated? If obligated, does this mean for activities or expenses that would be taking place on or before March 31, 2023, in which the bills have just not yet been paid?	All funds must be expended and/or obligated by March 31, 2023. Regions will have 45 days after March 31, 2023 to pay for all services provided during the grant's period of performance.
4	Page 8, Application Format and Submission Requirements, 4. All pages including the appendices should be sequentially page numbered, does that include the cover sheet?	The cover sheet is not required to contain a page number.

<p>5</p>	<p>Attachment B has spaces for additional requests, both for the employer training grant and the workforce ready grant. The RFA does not discuss these two grants, will more information be provided prior to the due date of the proposal for these two types of grant requests?</p>	<p>Additional guidance regarding these two programs will be provided separate from this RFA; however, for purposes of incorporating any funding request in response to the RFA, please assume any award will be based on the following:</p> <p>WRG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DWD intends to distribute some or all of the State appropriation for WRG to the Regions. The state appropriation for FY 22 is \$3M. 2) The standard WRG conditions will apply to use of these funds (limit of \$5,500 per trainee, have HS diploma but not college, 5 flame occupation in high demand sector). 3) The current regional grants for WRG funded through CARES will be extended to fund approved WRG trainings completed by December 30, 2021 (extending the current September 30 completion date). 4) Funds can be made available to the Regions when current WRG funds (CARES grants) are fully expended or beginning January 1, 2022, whichever comes first. DWD intends to use information gathered as a part of this RFA process to help inform and make decisions regarding the strategy for distributing funds for this program in the upcoming year. <p>ETG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DWD intends to distribute some or all of the State appropriation for ETG to the Regions. The state appropriation for FY 22 is \$20M. 2) The standard ETG conditions will apply to use of these funds (limit of \$5,000 per employee trained and \$50,000 per employer, 6-month employee retention, training in IN-Demand occupation in high demand sector, wage gain for incumbent workers). 3) DWD anticipates that the current regional grants for ETG will be amended to include any additional funding awarded from the FY22 ETG state appropriation. 4) DWD intends to use information gathered as a part of this RFA process to help inform and make decisions regarding the strategy for distributing funds for this program in the upcoming year. A decision on when and how any ETG funding will be awarded will be communicated in mid- to late-August.
----------	---	--

5A	Employer Training grant: Do we request funding based on 2020 prior obligations/expenditures that were illustrated as assigned to Region 5 employer reimbursements? As an example, we can see the amount of money attached to each Region for these reimbursements from what transpired in 2020, do we use this amount and guess on a percentage and apply for that amount of funding to reimburse employers?	DWD encourages each Region to prepare its funding requests for WRG and ETG using whatever methodology makes sense for the Region. With respect to this RFA, DWD is attempting to get a sense of what the Region anticipates its need to be for funding associated with these programs when considered as a part of the overall funding strategy for the Region.
5B	Employer Training grant: Are we to assume the amount requested would include a 10 % amount of fixed costs that could help pay for the staff time involved with processing these employer training grants? Will there be any administrative funds attached to this grant? 3. Is this to be a separate grant, or a part of the same Performance Support grant? If separate, when would it be in effect?	Yes, Regions may include up to 10% for a combination of program implementation and administrative costs as a part of any request for ETG funding. The 2021 Performance Grant will be awarded separate from the Employer Training Grant. ETG funds requested as a part of the applicant's RFA response may be awarded as separate grants or thru amendments to each Region's existing ETG grants.
5C	Workforce Ready grant: Do we propose the amount of funds that we believe could be expended to start after the current Workforce Ready grant ends, which is now in December, so the funds would begin to be obligated in January of 2022? (instead of September of 2021 when the Performance Support grant is in effect)	Yes. Please assume any award will be based on the following: 1) DWD intends to distribute some or all of the State appropriation for WRG to the Regions. The state appropriation for FY 22 is \$3M. 2) The standard WRG conditions will apply to use of these funds (limit of \$5,500 per trainee, have HS diploma but not college, 5 flame occupation in high demand sector). 3) The current regional grants for WRG funded through CARES will be extended to fund approved WRG trainings completed by December 30, 2021 (extending the current September 30 completion date). 4) Funds can be made available to the Regions when current WRG funds (CARES grants) are fully expended or beginning January 1, 2022, whichever comes first.
5D	Workforce Ready grant: Is this to be a separate grant, or a part of the same Performance Support grant? If separate, when would it be in effect?	The 2021 Performance Grant is separate from the Workforce Ready Grant, will be awarded September 1, 2021 and a region should have expended and/or obligated all funds by March 31, 2023 with all short-term initiative funds expended within six (6) to nine (9) months of grant award. WRG and/or ETG funds requested as a part of the applicant's RFA response may be awarded as separate grants or thru amendments to each Region's existing WRG and/or ETG grants.

6	Is there a maximum award amount for the funding opportunity?	There has been no maximum amount set for this grant. DWD anticipates that each Performance Support Grant awards to range from \$75,000 - \$500,000; however, grant awards will be based on the strength of the application, the number of applications received, and past performance on other specialty / discretionary grants. Applicants are encouraged to make the request that they deem appropriate given the goals they intend to accomplish with grant activities. Additional awards maybe issued for ETG and WRG funding based on an evaluation of requests received in response to this RFA and based on funding availability.
7	The RFA states that projects should aim to compliment and not duplicate current services. Are there any restrictions on the use of funds beyond such duplications of service?	Funds requested in response to this RFA should be considered as a part of the Region's overall funding strategy. DWD intends to prioritize funding for initiatives aligned with one or more of the following categories: 1. Capacity Building 2. Services to Target Populations 3. Business Services and Employer Engagement 4. Youth Engagement. Any additional grant terms and conditions will be similar to those included in prior year WIOA Performance Support Grants.
8	Regarding the requested estimates of WRG and ETG funding requests for the next fiscal year, will the In-Demand Flame restrictions on eligible occupations remain? Will occupations that are 5 Flames anywhere in the state be eligible? Will there be some process for local input on the Flame ratings of occupations in a region?	Any WRG and ETG grants will be made utilizing State dollars. As a result, all conditions associated with the traditional WRG and ETG state programs will apply to these funds as further detailed in the WRG and ETG Implementation Guides.
9	Do we need to differentiate what pot of funds we're requesting from (since it has multiple funding sources like Next Level Jobs and a couple others)	Proposals should be allocated to the different funding sources using the budget template.
10	Is there an award amount you might recommend us to request, considering the RFP says \$26M, but we are also seeing \$6M, which is \$500K per region if they split it up evenly?	There has been no maximum amount set for this grant. DWD anticipates that each Performance Support Grant awards to range from \$75,000 - \$500,000; however, grant awards will be based on the strength of the application, the number of applications received, and past performance on other specialty / discretionary grants. Applicants are encouraged to make the request that they deem appropriate given the goals they intend to accomplish with grant activities. Additional awards maybe issued for ETG and WRG funding based on an evaluation of requests received in response to this RFA and based on funding availability.

11	Will the new ETG/WRG funds have the same parameters as the current bucket of ETG/WRG funds? Will there be a chance parameters could change mid-grant?	Any WRG and ETG grants will be made utilizing State dollars. As a result, all conditions associated with the traditional WRG and ETG state programs will apply to these funds as further detailed in the WRG and ETG Implementation Guides.
12	How is the existing \$420K being handled? Will the Region be handling more of the ETG/WRG, including making payments?	Additional guidance will be forthcoming in regard to the ETG outside of this RFA.
13	Can the Region add administrative funds towards the requested ETG/WRG funds?	Yes. The Region may include a request to use up to 10% of the requested amount towards program implementation and administration.