

January 17, 2023

Teresa Deaton-Reese, CPPB, CPPO
Indiana Department of Administration
Procurement Division
402 W. Washington St., Room W468

Subject: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE-ETS) for students with disabilities in need of services who are eligible or potentially eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services

Dear Ms. Deaton-Reese,

Public Consulting Group (PCG) is pleased to submit this proposal in response to RFS #24-77904 to support the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for the state of Indiana. PCG is excited about the opportunity to continue our model of direct Pre-ETS with Indiana on this scope of work, and we believe that our combined experiences in special education, transition, and vocational rehabilitation engagements position us as a vendor who meets and exceeds the requirements set forth in this request.

PCG is excited to leverage our local experience within Indiana, establishing effective service models and our experience supporting agencies that serve specialized populations across the nation. Our underlying philosophy for this engagement is to support students as they strive to achieve meaningful career and post-secondary goals. Our trained professionals deliver high-quality Pre-ETS leveraging our innovative curriculum, Transition Playbook, and customized work-based learning experiences, to meet individual and program goals.

We have experience working with state departments and school districts of all sizes, and we customize project deliverables and design solutions that reflect the specific needs of the school community.

Providing high-quality Pre-ETS requires a vendor with a strong understanding of students with disabilities, high school transition services, and vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. Imperative to a successful engagement is:

- Expertise in Special Education, Transition, VR, and other disability employment evidence-based practices.
- The ability to train direct service providers effectively and efficiently.
- Experience in designing, delivering, and evaluating curriculum.
- Long standing relationships and experience working with local education agencies (LEAs) and state education agencies (SEAs), nationally and in Indiana.

As described in our proposal, PCG will continue to provide the state with a partner with extensive knowledge of the complex and often wide-ranging issues concerning support for individuals with a disability, particularly transition aged youth. PCG has proven expertise in WIOA and VR/Pre-ETS, including provision of direct services, evaluating program outcomes, and assessing the needs of specific populations. We have been contracted by numerous states to conduct evaluations of their respective programs, including program evaluations and gap analyses. We also conduct training and technical assistance through partnerships with several purveyors of vocational rehabilitation, supporting job exploration counseling and workplace readiness, among other program features.

PCG has a proven record of successful projects with state agencies, including the state of Indiana, as described in the proposal. Our work spans multiple agencies in numerous states, including the Departments of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Workforce Development across the country. Further, PCG has extensive experience and relationships with local school districts in Indiana specific to Special Education data management. PCG has the education and workforce experience and expertise to provide Pre-ETS services for students with disabilities in Indiana and support districts to implement comprehensive transition programs. PCG has developed a reputation for designing and delivering effective programming and direct services, professional development, training, and technical assistance. Clients value our approach as collaborative, research-based, and highly engaging. In addition to our staff's expertise in designing high-quality, capacity-building programs, PCG also has the organizational systems and skillsets to manage complex, multi-year engagements with multiple stakeholders at the state, district, and school levels.

For this response, the PCG team carefully reviewed the RFS to provide a set of tailored services that leverage our experience and Transition Playbook platform and curriculum. Specifically, PCG will provide year-round and summer programs with district clients currently engaged with PCG. Our Transition Playbook platform and curriculum will be utilized to deliver lessons (known as Plays) that align to the five WIOA categories. Our proposal describes the approach to staff, deliver and evaluate quality of services in full detail.

Transition Playbook includes lessons that are applicable to students immediately, and they build knowledge and skills through engaging, interactive content. This curriculum meets the needs of students at varying ability levels to help them achieve postsecondary success. Coaches also provide ongoing support and feedback throughout the process.

Regarding requirement 2.2.4, PCG is an approved vendor with and in good standing with Indiana.

Regarding requirement 2.2.5, PCG meets all mandatory requirements as set forth in Section 3.2 of the RFS.

With respect to requirement 2.2.6, PCG has the capability to assist with the state in a variety of additional ways, such as:

- **Serving Additional District Clients** – PCG has received requests from two school districts (South Bend Community School Corporation and Lake Central School Corporation) to provide Direct Pre-ETS.
- **Non-Direct Pre-ETS Consulting Services** – PCG can provide a variety of services beyond Direct Pre-ETS, including training and technical assistance, program evaluation, needs assessment, and billing services, among others.
- **Transition Playbook Licensing** – PCG can offer the state and other contracted vendors licensed access to our proprietary curriculum and software platform.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our response. We believe that we offer the best strategy and value to meet the scope of services outlined in this proposal. We understand vendors will be notified via email, per Section 2.2.3. If you have any questions or wish to discuss potential next steps, please contact me at ahowie@pcqus.com or (765) 233-2285.

Respectfully,



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