

Questions & Answers for WIOA Youth Procurement released on 3.26.2024

This document will be updated weekly every Wednesday by 4 PM till May 15, 2024.

Updated as of 5.8.24

1) Question: Can an Agency submit more than one proposal?

Answer: Yes, an Agency can submit more than one proposal, but it needs to be submitted separately.

2) Can you please explain WIOA Element #14: Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. – We are unsure what this refers to or how it is defined.

Answer: This RFP does not require Title I vendors to offer WIOA Element #14: Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. However, all 14 elements must be made available if needed (this can be referrals to local agencies). An example may be if math skills are required for a specific profession and math is offered as part of the job-readiness curriculum.

3) Is this understanding correct in that the 30% requirement is for incentive payments and not the \$15/hour internship stipend payment. Rather, all internship stipend payments will be paid from resources other than the reimbursement grant paid to the bidder/provider?

Answer: The MMVWB requires that the prospective bidder must spend a minimum of 30 percent of their budget on work experience activities listed below.

Youth Work Experience can include the following paid/unpaid activities:

- ❖ Wages/stipends paid to youth in the work experience;
- ❖ Incentive payments directly tied to the completion of work experience;
- ❖ Employability skill/job readiness training to prepare youth for work experience;
- ❖ Participant work experience orientation sessions;
- ❖ Classroom training or the required academic component directly related to the work experience;
- ❖ Orientations for employers
- ❖ Staff time working to identify and develop a work experience opportunity, including staff time spent work with employers to identify and develop the work experience;
- ❖ Staff time working with employers to ensure a successful work experience, including staff time spent managing the work experience;
- ❖ Staff time spent evaluating the work experience;

Stipend payments: The MMVWB will require stipend payments to youth participants at a rate of \$15.00 per hour (current Mass minimum wage) for in-person classroom participation and program activities.

These stipends will be paid by the MMVWB/City of Lawrence, but the prospective bidder should include these costs in their budget.

Wage payments for internship/externship: Youth participants will be paid \$15.00 per hour (current Mass minimum wage) for program internship/externship. Wages to youth in subsidized work experiences will be paid by the prospective bidder through the cost reimbursement contract with the MMVWB/City of Lawrence. Under WIOA, subsidized structured work experiences or internships **are** limited to a maximum of 100 hours at an hourly rate equal to Massachusetts designated hourly minimum wage.

The bidder/provider can offer internships as either paid or unpaid. If an internship will be paid by this WIOA Youth Contract, please include these costs in your budget. If an internship will be paid by other resources, please include these costs in your budget narrative.

- 4) Can costs paid for directly by MMVWB be considered as part of the cost match provided by the contract recipient?

Answer: Match Costs are not required in this WIOA Youth Budget, but the bidder/provider can offer to pay for youth services from other resources and note this in the Budget Narrative.

- 5) Is the 30% budget meant to pay for some or all of the “Youth Work Experience can include the following paid/unpaid activities” listed on Page 10. As I read this, the internship stipend is not paid by the training provider but the list of 9 elements on page 10 is what the 30% goes toward. Correct?

Answer: Wage payments for internship/externship: Youth participants will be paid \$15.00 per hour (current Mass minimum wage) for program internship/externship. Wages to youth in subsidized work experiences will be paid by the prospective bidder through the cost reimbursement contract with the MMVWB/City of Lawrence. Under WIOA, subsidized structured work experiences or internships are limited to a maximum of 100 hours at an hourly rate equal to Massachusetts designated hourly minimum wage.

The bidder/provider can offer internships as either paid or unpaid. If an internship will be paid, please include these costs in your budget, as these costs will be counted towards the 30% work experience component.

- 6) What admissions criteria can be used by the training provider? On Page 11 the “Referrals” section stipulates that “vendors will accept referrals made to them by MMVWB and other local agencies serving youth”. Does this mean that prospective students would not have to meet any recommended admissions criteria set up by the vendor?

Answer: At a minimum, youth must meet WIOA Youth eligibility which consists of providing documentation for each applicable category (reference attachment B of the RFP). When youth

referrals are made, the vendor must ensure that prospective students meet WIOA Youth eligibility and any additional criteria set forth by the vendor.

- 7) In Measurable Outcomes on Page 13, why is the percentage for placement lower after the 4th quarter (72%), than the 2nd quarter after exit (75%)? Is this a result of lack of employer retention?

Answer: The State of Massachusetts negotiates statewide WIOA Performance Measures with the US Department of Labor (DOL) based on the most recent performance data available at the time. After the State targets are set, then local areas set their annual goals based on the State's data. The lower percentage for placement after the 4th quarter can be for a variety of reasons.

- 8) Can training be delivered live, via Zoom or is it preferred that training be delivered live in a building, classroom setting/

Answer: The MMVWB prefers that most youth programming be delivered in person. If vendors chose to have virtual aspects in their program, it is expected that support is provided to students who don't have access to internet and/or devices. Also, keep in mind that per the RFP, stipend payments to youth participants at a rate of \$15.00 per hour (current Mass minimum wage) is for in-person classroom participation and program activities only.

- 9) Are organizations that have contracted in the past with both Commonwealth Corporation and the U.S. Government for a 10% de minimus rate, eligible to use that same rate in the budget submission for this grant

Answer: Any non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge a De Minimis Rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC).