

**Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program
SFP PY 2009-10**

Questions and Answers

March 30, 2010

Applicant Eligibility

1. Our Workforce Investment Area received ARRA funding in December for a Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP). Are we still eligible to apply for this round of VEAP that is funded under the Governor's 15 Percent Discretionary? If so, are we eligible to use the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, Recovery Act) funding as a match?

Yes, you are eligible to apply for this new grant opportunity and you may use Recovery Act funding as match. However, the Recovery Act funding must be completely spent by June 2011. Commitment letters must specify how the Recovery Act VEAP funds will be used specifically for this new project. This may have an impact on your current VEAP project design.

General

1. Previous VEAP grants were approved across multiple years with a stipulation that awards would be granted in two increments. Would funding for this new VEAP project operate on the basis of increments in funding?

No, there will not be multi-year increments of funding under this Solicitation for Proposals (SFP).

2. Is there an official list of clean energy economy jobs targeted for the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program?

No there is not an official list of targeted clean energy jobs. To receive the bonus points it will be left up to applicants to demonstrate that the occupations that veterans will be trained and placed are within the following subsegments of the clean energy industry: Energy Generation, Energy Efficiency, Green Transportation, Water & Wastewater, and Air & Environment.

Proposal Criteria

1. Can the bidder propose a performance based payment system to ensure achievement of outcomes for veterans in this program?

The Employment Development Department's (EDD) contracting system is not set up to award a performance based contract with a grantee. The applicant must follow the performance goals outlined in the SFP.

2. Can the bidder propose a multi-county or regional approach to recruiting and serving Veterans?

Yes, applicants may use a multi-county and/or regional approach in recruiting and serving veterans. Applicants are asked to describe their targeted region, which may be multi-county or cross regional in the Proposal Narrative Form Section I. In addition, applicants will identify their outreach/recruitment methods in Section II where they can explain why they have chosen a multi-county or regional approach.

3. Will any ARRA funds be utilized to support VEAP grants awarded, thus necessitating the extraordinary ARRA reporting requirements?

The VEAP SFP is funded with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Governor's Discretionary 15 Percent funds only. Recovery Act funds will not be awarded under this proposal.

4. Can a proposal include more than one industry sector for training?

Yes, applicants may use a multi-industry sector approach for training and placing veterans.

5. Does the term "clean energy" industry also include "green" industries, or is the focus solely on energy and its related clean generation/distribution/savings industries?

The term clean energy industry may include green industries. To receive the bonus points it will be left up to applicants to demonstrate that the occupations that veterans will be trained and placed are within the following five subsegments of the clean energy/green industry: Energy Generation, Energy Efficiency, Green Transportation, Water & Wastewater, and Air & Environment.

6. How would award of the "up to 5 bonus points" for clean energy industry sector training be calculated if a proposal has a mix of occupations – some that are clean energy and some in other sectors? Would all 5 points still be awarded if a majority of training was in the clean energy industry sector? If the 5 points are to be awarded on a sliding scale, on what basis would this be done – based on split of trainees in clean energy or what?

When using a multi-industry sector approach, the applicant must demonstrate that the majority of the occupations that they will be training veterans in are in

one or more of the green subsegments listed on page 11 of the SFP to qualify for the 5 bonus points. The bonus points will not be awarded on a sliding scale.

7. Section 1 Overview, subpart A. Purposes encourages "...creation or expansion of regional partnerships with Community Colleges..... and other key stakeholders." The note at the bottom of SFP Form 5 Supplemental Budget Form says "All contractual services must be competitively procured in accordance with federal and state procurement regulations and policies. See WIA Directive WIAD00-2." Is a full competitive procurement process required if an applicant agency is forming (expanding) its partnership with two local community colleges, to provide the intended sector-based classroom vocational training, from which financial contracts (supported by this VEAP subgrant) would follow? Or is there an ability to directly contract with local institutions of higher education with these VEAP funds (absent need for a competitive procurement)?**

This SFP did not require mandated partners therefore any subcontractors will need to be locally procured.

8. The SFP mentions "*high growth occupations with particular emphasis placed on the clean energy economy.*" Do occupations in Sustainable Design, Weatherization, Retrofitting, Electric Car Work, Biofuel qualify as clean energy economy occupations?

This SFP focused on 5 subsegments of the clean energy economy: Energy Generation, Energy Efficiency, Green Transportation, Water & Wastewater, and Air & Environment. The occupations listed in the question above appear to qualify as clean energy occupations. However, it will be left up to the applicant to clearly demonstrate that the occupations that veterans will be trained and placed are within one of the 5 subsegments of the clean energy/green industry.

9. Under Performance Goals Section D, page 16 of 47 in the SFP, does Placement in Education or Training at 100% mean 100% of enrollments must be in a Education or Training activity? Or does it mean something else?

Yes. The goal of 100% "Placed in Education or Training" means 100% of enrollees should be placed in education or training. The overall State goals are provided under Section 8 D (page 16 of the SFP) as a point of reference for applicants when reviewing their local goals. If the "Placement in Education or Training" is below the targeted State goal of 100%, then the applicant must provide an explanation in Section IV, Performance Goals, of the Proposal Narrative.

10. As long as placements after training are verified, is there any requirement that placements occur within California?

There is no requirement but it is recommended that placements occur in California.

11. Based on the language in the SFP, we've been unable to determine whether an approach targeting more than one sector would be allowable. So long as appropriate relationships with employers, education and training programs, and certification options are available in each targeted sector, is it permissible to propose a multi-sector approach? If a multi-sector approach is an allowable option, can a proposal receive the "green" bonus points if one of the targeted sectors focuses on green occupations, or do all sectors have to have the green focus to receive the bonus?

This SFP does not preclude a multi-sector approach as long as the "Statement of Need" (Section I, page 1 of the Proposal Narrative form) is clearly addressed for each targeted industry sector and as you stated, the appropriate relationships with employers, education and training programs, and certification options are available in each targeted sector. When using a multi-sector approach in order to qualify for the bonus points, you must demonstrate that the majority of the occupations that you will be training participants in are in green industries. Five bonus points will be awarded to applicants that can train and place veterans in occupations in the following green subsegments, as described in the SFP:

- Energy Generation
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Transportation
- Water & Wastewater
- Air & Environment

Target Population

1. The SFP clearly specifies veterans as the target group to be served with these funds—can these funds be used to train veterans in programs also serving non-veterans simultaneously in combined cohorts?

No, funds awarded under this SFP may only be used to provide employment and training services to veterans or eligible spouses as defined in the SFP under Section C. Eligible Veterans.

2. Are veterans discharged under General, Other Than Honorable (OTH), and Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD) eligible as participants of the Veterans Employment Related Assistance Program?

Yes, for the purpose of this SFP, the term “veteran,” as defined in the United States Code, Title 38, Part I, Chapter 1, Section 101, refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.