

Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program
SFP PY 2011/12
Questions and Answers #2
March 29, 2012

Applicant Eligibility

We have a current VEAP grant operating through 3/31/13. Are we eligible to apply for the new funding?

Current grantees of WIA Veterans' projects may apply if they meet the eligibility criteria for this Solicitation for Proposal (SFP).

Funding

1. What is the difference between 15 and 25 percent funds?

The main difference between the two funds is the participant eligibility, i.e., who can be served with each. The WIA 15 Percent funds can serve any WIA eligible person as designated in the SFP, while WIA Dislocated Worker 25 Percent funds can only be used to serve dislocated workers, however dislocated workers can be co-enrolled in both 15 and 25 percent funding. The WIA 15 Percent Project Requirements are contained in WIA Directive [WIAD02-14](#), *15 Percent Project Requirements*. For information on the use of WIA Dislocated Worker 25 Percent funds see WIA Directive, [WIAD05-18](#), *Dislocated Worker 25 Percent Funding Policy*.

2. There seems to be a discrepancy between SFP Form 4 and the Instructions. The Form has separate columns for 15 and 25 percent money. But the instructions mention only a single column for the 15%. May we request funds from only one source? Or must the request be divided?

The Budget Summary Plan (SFP Form 4) is correct. The language in the Proposal Package Instructions has been revised to include the Dislocated Worker 25 Percent funding.

Applicants must submit proposals integrating both WIA 15 Percent and Dislocated Worker 25 Percent funds. Funding must be split 60% (WIA 15 Percent) and 40% (WIA 25 Percent) between the two fund sources, not to exceed the total maximum of \$500,000. For example, if the total request is \$500,000, the 15 Percent portion would be \$300,000 and the 25 Percent portion would be \$200,000.

3. Since the funding is broken out by 15 and 25 Percent will the expenditures be tracked for two different funding sources and will eligibility for dislocated worker program also become a factor?

Yes, expenditures will be tracked for both each fund source. For each fund source, applicants must follow the participant eligibility guidelines outlined in the WIA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide issued in WIA Directive [WIAD04-18](#), Title I Eligibility.

General

1. Is the Department willing to consider a 100% fee for performance budget basis for this contract in order to ensure the meeting of contract milestones (i.e. instead of a line item budget, only paying the bidder once the vendor achieves its training, job placement and job retention (among others) milestones of an agreed upon value)?

No. The applicant must follow the budget instructions specified in the SFP.

2. Regarding the region that bidder's propose to serve, are there any restrictions or requirements on the area that we will propose to serve?

No. However, the applicant must describe the targeted area it intends to serve and demonstrate the need in Section I of the Proposal Narrative.

Proposal Criteria

For those organizations that have had a WIA 15 Percent Veterans' Project, Past/Present Performance will be considered in making funding recommendations. If Past/Present Performance is only to be considered for those organization that have had a WIA 15 Percent Veteran's Project, what consideration for funding are made for those entities that have had non-WIA Veteran's projects? Will these entities be eligible for any of the possible 5 points associated to this Past/Present Performance?

Past and present performance for both WIA and non-WIA Veterans' projects will be considered and eligible for points under the Past/Present Performance category.

Required Elements

1. Can local EDD managers provide cash/in-kind match with a letter of commitment verifying match dollar amount for DVOP staff time and other services from by EDD employees?

Yes, you may list local Employment Development Department (EDD) staff time contributions to a project as in-kind match if documented in a letter of commitment verifying the monetary value of this contribution by a local EDD Manager.

2. Can the GI Bill be counted as match for veterans who receive core and intensive services in the Veteran's Employment-Related Assistance Program?

No. Match is funding that the applicant leverages from other sources and is made available to the applicant to be used specifically for this proposal's activities. All cash/in-kind match must be documented with a letter of commitment verifying the match amount. The GI Bill benefits, or any other school financial aid, are funds contributed by the veterans receiving services instead of the applicant, and therefore cannot be used as match.

3. For in-kind matches, does the bidder that is responding to the SFP and proposing in-kind matches have to still include a letter of commitment? For instance, if our organization is responding to this SFP and is also providing in-kind matches, would we still have to provide a commitment letter since we are the organization responding to the SFP?

Yes. If the "applicant" is providing the required cash/in-kind match, they must submit a commitment letter describing the match and verifying the cash/in-kind match amount.

4. Is on-the-job training (OJT) an allowable service strategy, as a singular offering or as an adjunct activity for vocational classroom training, that would qualify as part of the requirement that 100% of program participants be placed in education or training?

Yes, either variation of OJT is an allowable service strategy that would qualify as part of the requirement that 100% of program participants be placed in education or training.

5. If OJT is the singular offering, would completion of all planned employer-based training modules qualify as part of the required 80% "completed training" goal?

Yes, completion of employer-based training does qualify for the required 80% "completed training" goal. However, applicants are required to offer at least one certified professional training which leads to an industry-recognized certificate for each targeted industry cluster. Any grant application that does not offer at least one certified professional training which leads to an industry-recognized certificate will be considered non-responsive and will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

6. Would there be any “proxy” outcome for OJT as a singular offering that could qualify a successful completion of OJT with retention of employment with that employer) to be credited toward the required 70% “attained a recognized certificate/degree” goal?

There is no substitute for the “attained a recognized certificate/degree” goal when using OJT as a training strategy. Successful completion of OJT and retention of employment with that employer does not count towards the “attained a recognized certificate/degree” goal.

7. In the SFP, there is a mental health component. Does the initial skill assessment of the veteran by an intake specialist in our “One-Stops” also have to include a mental health assessment, or just a referral to mental services if the veteran requests it?

No. However, applicants must demonstrate the availability of a licensed or credentialed mental health counselor/practitioner either on staff or through a partnership (Narrative Section III.3) should a referral be requested. In addition, the applicant must attach a copy of the counselor/practitioner license or credentials.