1. Are "businesses" specific companies or industries?

For the purposes of this Solicitation for Proposals (SFP), businesses or industries are limited only to those with high-growth expectations in the region. Disability Employment Accelerator (DEA) grant applicants are required to engage businesses in high-growth industries and partner with employers in these fields to develop earn-and-learn training opportunities. Each applicant must identify at least three regional businesses in high-demand industries, and provide a clear strategy to engage these employers to increase employment and retention opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

2. Which client groups can be served within the grant?

All participants served by this grant must be PWDs. This DEA SFP requires a minimum of 50 percent of the total participants enrolled be: 1) college graduates, or 2) students who will complete their degree and receive DEA services during the grant term. The remaining enrolled participants do not have to be college graduates.

3. How is “college graduate” defined?

A college graduate is an individual who has completed or will complete an associate or baccalaureate degree during the term of the grant.

4. Do schools outside of the 2-year and 4-year college requirement count toward the education component?

This SFP requires a minimum of 50 percent of the total participants enrolled be: 1) college graduates, or 2) students who will complete their degree and receive DEA services during the grant term. Therefore, a vocational trade-school student may participate in the grant but would not qualify towards this requirement.

5. Does a participant who is currently enrolled in college need to complete their education during the time of involvement with the DEA program?

DEA Phase V focuses on attracting college students who are near to fulfilling their degree requirements, and/or are college graduates. This SFP requires a minimum of 50 percent of the total participants enrolled be, 1) college graduates or 2) students who will complete their degree and receive DEA services during the grant term. Therefore, remaining mindful of the targeted 50-percent requirement, an individual may participate though they would not qualify towards this DEA SFP stipulation.
6. Is this a cost reimbursement grant?

DEA is a cost reimbursement grant set up for all sub-grantees. Once DEA has been funded by the Department of Labor, the Employment Development Department (EDD) will complete the process for all agencies to become sub-grantees. All sub-grantees are responsible for reporting their expenditures and fund withdrawals.

7. Can the match come from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Veterans, or EDD funds?

Matching funds may come from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) or non-WIOA sources made available to the applicant specifically for the purposes of this SFP. Matching funds will be subject to the reporting requirements contained in Workforce Services Directive: WSD16-13, Quarterly and Monthly Financial Reporting Requirements.

A cash-match is defined as any fund made available to the grantee to be used specifically for these project activities, and must be consistent with allowable activities dictated by the fund source. The awarded grantee has control over and disburses these funds.

Examples include, but are not limited to, funding received from employers, foundations, private entities, or local governments.

To meet minimum requirements for matching sources, applicants must: 1) demonstrate cash and/or in-kind match on SFP Form: J-Partners Roles and Responsibilities, and 2) provide a letter-of-commitment from each entity pledging cash or in-kind matches for the DEA project.

8. Can the awardee (applicant) co-enroll in other grants?

According to WIOA, the Local Workforce Development Board will facilitate development of career pathways and co-enrollment as appropriate, in core programs, and improve access to activities leading to a recognized-postsecondary credential—including a credential that is an industry-recognized, portable, and stackable certification. In other words, it is up to the discretion of the Local Workforce Development Area (Local Area) on how and when to co-enroll.

9. Can Local Areas apply for funding if they are a current recipient of DEA funds?

No, current recipients of the DEA Program Year 17-18/Phase IV grant funding and individuals using such funds are not eligible to apply.

10. What is the term of the DEA grant?

The DEA-grant term is based on the project start date of no later than March 1, 2019, and end date of no later than March 31, 2021.

11. Can a Disability Resource Coordinator serve multiple local areas?
A Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) may be hired and shared between Local Areas. This partnership and the DRC duties must be documented in the proposed work plan and all required forms submitted in the proposal package.

12. Can a participant from a previous round of DEA funding receive services from the new round of funding?

Yes, though the enrollee would not be considered a new participant and must not be counted separately for both grants. Refer to the chart on page 12 of the SFP for enrollment guidance.

13. The minimum requirement of participants in the grant must be 80 percent of PWD who are new participants, please define “New Participants?”

New participants are those who have never been enrolled in a DEA grant.

14. Are we able to subgrant to other entities?

Yes, a recipient of grant funds under this title shall have the authority to enter into sub-grants in order to carry out the grant. Recipients need to follow procurement and contracting requirements as set forth in the Uniform Administrative Requirement, 2 CFR 200.317-36.

15. What is the age requirement for participants in the DEA grant?

DEA is a WIOA, Title I Adult Governor’s Discretionary Grant, so except as otherwise specified in WIOA Section 3 (2), the term “adult” is defined as an individual who is 18 years or older.

16. Where are the quarterly meetings held?

Quarterly meetings are rotated throughout California. On a yearly basis, two meetings are held in Southern California and two in Northern California.

17. If the applicant is a Local Board provider of WIOA Title I services, must the applicant submit a "Partnership Agreement" to the agency, along with the local EDD/Wagner-Peyser authority?

According to this SFP applicants are required to submit “Partnership Agreement” letters from the WIOA Title I Local Area and the Local EDD/Wagner-Peyser authority. In this case, the applicant may combine this partnership agreement into one letter.

18. If a client receives funding through the Department of Rehabilitation, will they still be eligible for this program?

Yes, a participant can receive funding from another state or federal agency and still be eligible for this DEA program, as long as the WIOA-funded services are not duplicated.
19. Can a Local Area that is not a recipient of DEA Program Year 17-18 grant funding apply as a lead and sub-contract with a sub-recipient who received DEA Program Year 17-18 grant funding?

Yes, an applicant can apply as the lead if they are not receiving funding for DEA 17-18 and subcontract to a sub-recipient. Please note, as a new applicant, all partnership and new-participation requirements must be followed including the 80 percent new participation in this round of DEA funding (refer to the chart on page 12 of the SFP for enrollment guidance).