

Employment Development Department Disability Employment Accelerator (DEA) SFP PY 2017-18

Questions and Answers

October 19, 2017

DEFINITIONS

1. What is the definition of “earn-and-learn?”

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) places a strong focus on “earn-and-learn” activities in career pathways. For the purposes of the DEA grant, the Employment Development Department (EDD) defines “earn-and-learn” as: paid work experience, paid internships, transitional jobs, pre and registered apprenticeships and on-the-job training (OJT). Under DEA funding, projects are expected to focus on and provide these types of trainings to people with disabilities.

2. What does “Partnering with the Grants and Special Initiatives Unit (GSIU)” mean?

Grantees are expected to work closely with the EDD GSIU. The GSIU Project Advisors will provide guidance regarding training, project implementation, spending, and other technical assistance needs.

3. How is “college graduate” defined?

A student who will complete their degree requirements and/or are college graduates while receiving DEA services during the grant term. College degrees include associates or bachelor’s degree.

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Will you please provide more information on the required partnerships and Partnership Agreement Letters?

The GSIU is comprised of a unit manager, grant manager, project manager, contract analysts, and support staff assigned to the DEA. Although a partnership is required with this team, you will not need a Partnership Agreement Letter from the GSIU.

A Partnership Agreement Letter will be needed from your local-level EDD Employment Service office. This is considered the Wagner-Peyser authorized representative.

If you are not a Local Workforce Development Area (Local Area) but wish to apply for DEA funding, you must also partner with them and provide a Partnership Agreement Letter establishing this with your application. The partnered Local Area may not submit its own application for DEA funding.

2. Can two Local Areas collaborate on DEA and submit one proposal?

Yes; however, the request ceiling remains \$350,000 total and one Local Area will have to be the signatory authority and fiscally responsible for the entire amount, if awarded.

3. If regional collaboration is ok with another Local Area, would we be able to have a sub-contract with another Local Area? For example, if one Local Area took the lead as the grantee could we sub-contract with another Local Area?

Yes, however, each Local Area's role must be clearly defined and outlined on all relevant forms in your proposal.

PERFORMANCE

1. Does the Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) need to be a full-time position?

No, it is not mandatory for the DRC to be full-time; however, the broad scope and amount of work required of the position may make it necessary.

In previous phases of the DEA grant, the DRC has been full-time. The DRC duties usually include: being a subject-matter expert on disability-related resources; coordinating or providing training to staff; developing and implementing outreach activities; convening meetings with the Local Area, businesses and/or other community organizations, and traveling to attend mandatory quarterly meetings hosted by the EDD GSIU.

2. Is there an expectation that all enrolled DEA participants will participate in "earn-and-learn" strategies?

No, the expectation is that "earn-and-learn" strategies will take priority; however short term prevocational training services are allowable.

3. Can the organization that receives DEA funding also be an employer?

Yes, with the exception that the employer can not employ someone under an OJT contract. The position needs to be an open position.

PROPOSAL FORMAT/SUBMISSION

1. I am unable to access the SFP and required forms.

When accessing the [Workforce Development Solicitations for Proposals](#) website, use Microsoft's Internet Explorer as the site was developed to this browser's standards. The required forms are listed on page 3 of the [SFP](#).

2. Are we required to submit letters from businesses/employers?

No, Partnership Agreement Letters are not required from businesses/employers. But, a minimum of three, local, in-demand businesses must be identified and listed in the Project Proposal Narrative and relevant forms.

3. Can proposals be submitted for amounts less than \$175,000? If so, what are the minimum participant numbers and match/leverage amounts?

Yes, proposals for smaller amounts will be considered and the minimum match/leverage amount remains at 40 percent. Review the SFP table on page 11 to determine the participant numbers for your request.

OTHER

1. Is there a recording of the Informational Teleconference held September 26, 2017?

No.

2. Was the DEA SFP Information Call mandatory for applicants?

No.