

New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Office of Just Energy Transition (OJET) Growing the Clean Energy Workforce (GCEW) Request for Proposals (RFP) Questions and Answers (Q&A)

(Updated on 1/3/2025) New questions and answers are added frequently and indicated below after each revision date. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the program is available on NYSDOL's [Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

The OJET GCEW Request for Proposals (RFP) is a competitive funding opportunity. Therefore, limited technical assistance can be provided in the interpretation of the RFP per NYS procurement rules.

(Use CTRL+Click to jump to these sections in the document)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

[GENERAL QUESTIONS](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

FAQ #1) Where can I find more information about the OJET GCEW?

FAQ A #1) Information on the NYSDOL OJET GCEW RFP can be found on the NYSDOL Funding Opportunities [webpage](#). On this webpage, you will find a link to the [RFP](#); a Questions and Answers (Q&A) document; a [Summary Matrix](#), a condensed version of the RFP discussing the purpose, funding, use of funds, allowable costs, contracting information, Bidder eligibility, and participant eligibility; and a recording of the Bidder Workshop presented on December 13, 2024.

FAQ #2) Where can I submit a proposal for the OJET GCEW?

FAQ A #2) Prospective Bidders must submit their proposal online via the Statewide Financial System (SFS) website at:

https://esupplier.sfs.ny.gov/psc/fscm/SUPPLIER/ERP/c/NUI_FRAMEWORK.PT_LANDINGPAGE.GBL?&

All Bidders must be registered in SFS prior to submission, and all non-governmental not-for-profit (NFP) Bidders must be designated as prequalified prior to proposal submission.

Please see Section IV.C. of the [RFP](#) for additional proposal submission instructions.

FAQ #3) Is there a deadline for proposals for the OJET GCEW RFP?

FAQ A #3) Yes, the deadline for SFS proposal submission for the OJET GCEW program is no later than 4:00 PM NYS Time on January 10, 2025.

FAQ #4) Will there be another round of this funding released in 2025?

FAQ A #4) We cannot predict future funding opportunities or funding availability at this time. Current and future funding opportunities are posted on the NYSDOL Funding Opportunities

[webpage](#). You can also subscribe to be notified when OJET-specific funding opportunities become available [here](#).

FAQ #5) Is there a possibility that the January 10, 2025, deadline will be extended?

FAQ A #5) We do not anticipate a change in the due date at this time.

FAQ #6) I have questions about the process of registering our organization in SFS so that we may submit a proposal for the OJET GCEW program. Where can questions about this process be directed?

FAQ A #6) SFS is a Statewide accounting and financial management system that is not specific to NYSDOL. For questions about this process, please contact the SFS Helpdesk by calling (518) 457-7717 or (855) 233-8363 (toll free), or by emailing grantsreform@its.ny.gov.

FAQ #7) Where can I find the attachments I am required to submit with my proposal and how do I submit them in SFS?

FAQ A #7) All required proposal attachments, as outlined in Section V.B. of the [RFP](#), can be found in SFS under Event Comments and Attachments and must be attached to the corresponding question in the event.

FAQ #8) What are Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)?

FAQ A #8) DACs are those that bear the burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and possess certain socioeconomic criteria, or comprise high-concentrations of low- and moderate- income households. Additional information on DACs can be found in sections I.A., I.B., and VII. of the [RFP](#).

General Questions (GQ)

GQ #1) The RFP says several times "statewide". Is it a requirement that the Bidder provide services in more than one New York State (NYS) location? What does "statewide" mean in this context?

GA #1) Bidders are not required to provide services in more than one NYS location. "Statewide" means the funds are intended to serve programs across all locations within NYS.

GQ #2) Are the monies for this RFP passed down to NYSDOL/the New York Power Authority (NYPA) from Federal sources?

GA #2) No, the monies for this RFP are not passed down to NYSDOL/NYPA from Federal funds. The GCEW program is funded with State funds by NYPA and is made available through NYSDOL OJET.

GQ #3) Would a grant proposal consisting solely of "career development services such as resume writing, interview preparation, job search strategies, and referrals for job opportunities" (from Section II.B of the RFP) be eligible for award or must the proposed workforce training initiative include one or more of the clean energy subject areas itemized in Section II.A of the RFP?

GA #3) All OJET GCEW proposals must include occupational skills or pre-apprenticeship training. Career development services may be provided in addition to, but not instead of, the occupational skills or pre-apprenticeship training.

Information on allowable funding can be found in Section II.A of the [RFP](#). Additional information can be found in Section II.B.

GQ #4) Is tuition an allowable expense for grant funding?

GA #4) Allowable costs under the OJET GCEW program can be found in Section II.B.1. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #5) What is the timeline for this program? Do you have an idea when grant awards might be announced?

GA #5) Per Section IV.E. of the [RFP](#), the projected notification of awards will be late Winter 2025.

GQ #6) Are we required to recruit DAC members specifically from the purple census tracts designated on the [Disadvantaged Communities Criteria Map](#)? Or can they be recruited from other groups?

GA #6) Please see the response for FAQ A #8.

GQ #7) What kind of information will need to be recorded for project reporting?

GA #7) Reporting requirements can be found in Section III.C.4. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #8) Our organization currently has one NYSDOL grant in progress, and another awarded grant ready to start right after. These grants are for separate departments. Are we still able to apply for this grant?

GA #8) Information on organizations having additional grant awards and what is allowable can be found in Section II.B. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #9) With regards to the restrictions on the use of funds: Am I to understand that any equipment purchased for the delivery of a proposed training must be used/consumed within a year and cannot cost more than \$1K per unit? More precisely, no equipment can have a useful life extending beyond the grant?

GA #9) The use of funds, including allowable costs and restrictions on the use of funds, can be found in Sections II.B.I. and II.B.III., respectively of the [RFP](#).

GQ #10) The prime applicant is headquartered in California but has done extensive work in NYS. We are both a vendor and employer of record in the state, however we do not have a physical site. How do reviewers define site in the following minimum requirements? The Bidder is headquartered in NYS or has at least one (1) site located in NYS at the time of proposal. Would we be eligible given this definition?

GA #10) Bidder eligibility can be found in Section III.A. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #11) We are a public benefit corporation, a for-profit company with a social mission. If we were to apply with a partner who is a non-profit, they would name us as a sub-grantee. I wanted to confirm that structure is okay in the confines of this RFP. I also wanted to confirm that entities that are named as sub-contractors do not have to meet the bidder eligibility outlined in the RFP like having more than 2 full time employee equivalents.

GA #11) Bidder eligibility can be found in Section III.A. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #12) The RFP gives an example of the type of software costs that is allowed under this RFP (software to deliver training). In order to deliver a full learning experience, I can imagine there being uses for software that are not explicitly for delivering training but are still additive and valuable. Could you confirm if software that is not a Learning Management System can still be used and covered by this grant?

GA #12) Please see the response for GQ #4.

GQ #13) Kings County is listed as a census tract for DACs in the grant system. Can you confirm if Brooklyn residents within Kings County would suffice to meet the requirement for 35% of participants from DACs?

GA #13) Please see the response for GQ #6.

GQ #14) Does your office have data on the anticipated job demand for green jobs in 2025?

GA #14) Information on identifying skills and occupations within the clean energy economy can be found on the NYSDOL “Green Topics” dashboard located at <https://dol.ny.gov/exploring-occupations-green-topic>.

GQ #15) Regarding outcome tracking, the grant references submitting data to the One-Stop Operating System (OSOS) platform. Could you clarify the specific outcome metrics that need to be tracked and reported?

GA #15) Please see the response for GQ #7.

GQ #16) The application deadline is January 10, 2025, and awards are noted as being announced in “late winter 2025.” Could you clarify the specific timeframe for “late winter” - Does that mean March/April 2025 or September/October 2025?

GA #16) “Late winter” refers to March/April of 2025.

GQ #17) The grant mentions a six-month window after the award notification is received before performance must begin. Does this performance period include planning, or does it require the start of training classes and participant enrollment within the first quarter?

GA #17) Information regarding the six-month timeframe on award notices/contracts can be found in Sections II.D. and VI.A. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #18) If I am asking for a waiver from the Minority and Women-Owned Business (MWBE)/Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) requirements, what information would I put on my utilization plans?

GA #18) Information regarding MWBE/SDVOB and utilization plans can be found in Section II.H. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #19) Is there a minimum and maximum dollar amount bidders must commit to spending on MWBE/SDVOB suppliers?

GA #19) Please see the response for GQ #18.

GQ #20) Do the MWBE/SDVOB goals apply to the entire grant award, or just the portion of our budget that would be spent with external businesses (i.e.: supplies/contractors). As a not-for-profit, 95% of our spending will be for staff salaries.

GA #20) Please see the response for GQ #18.

GQ #21) There are a few questions that only require a YES/NO answer, but I'm given 2000 characters to answer them. For Example: (5) “Is the training program or pre-apprenticeship located in a DAC?” Is it okay if these answers are short, less than 100 characters in length?

GA #21) There are no minimum or maximum response requirements within the RFP.

GQ #22) Can a bidder request funds from OJET GCEW to solely fund training cohorts of an existing clean energy curriculum that we've executed in the past, with one added change - the addition of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker staff member?

GA #22) Please see the response for GA #9.

GQ #23) The RFP states "Training activities for GCEW participants must be funded entirely with GCEW awards. The same group of trainees must not be trained using funding from other awarded programs". We plan on using the \$500,000 from GCEW to support 3 clean energy training cohorts. How would we answer #21? Isn't leveraging existing resources prohibited?

GA #23) Information regarding the use of funds, including combining OJET GCEW funds with similar funding opportunities, can be found in Section II.B. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #24) The RFP says that "Training activities for GCEW participants must be funded entirely with GCEW awards". If we have NYSERDA funds for an HVAC program that pays for instructors, but does not cover wraparound supplies (i.e., student monetary incentives or mental health counseling) can we use GCEW funds to expand our wraparound supports to those trainees?

GA #24) Please see the response for GQ #23.

GQ #25) Could you provide clarification on the language under "Training Costs," specifically regarding the distinction between development costs and delivery costs? The RFP states, "The costs of expanding and creating curriculum and programs (no more than 20% of awarded funds), and providing clean energy training course(s), including course(s) for pre-apprenticeships..."

GA #25) Information regarding allowable training costs can be found in Section II.B.I.a. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #26) Is the phrase "the costs of expanding and creating curriculum and programs (no more than 20% of awarded funds)" intended to refer to Development costs exclusively?

GA #26) Please see the response for GQ #25.

GQ #27) The RFP says that "Training activities for GCEW participants must be funded entirely with GCEW awards." If we have State or private funds for a hard skills training program that pays for instructors, can we use GCEW funds to provide wraparound services like job placement?

GA #27) Please see the response for GQ #23.

GQ #28) Do pre-apprenticeship programs need to be connected to registered state or federal apprenticeship programs?

GA #28) In the [RFP](#), there is no requirement for a pre-apprenticeship program to be connected to a registered apprenticeship program.

GQ #29) When does the grant term begin (3 years starting when?)

GA #29) Information regarding contract timeframes can be found in sections II.D. and VI.A. of the [RFP](#).

New Questions as of 1/3/2025:

GQ #30) We are planning to submit MWBE and SDVOB waivers with our proposal. Do we need to include ALL of attachments A-F with our waivers, or can we just submit the attachment correlating to the reason we are requesting a waiver?

GA #30) Information regarding waivers can be found in section II.H. of the [RFP](#). Information regarding attachments can be found in sections II.G., IV.B., IV.C., V.A., V.B.1., V.B.2., and VIII. of the RFP.

GQ #31) With regards to contracts: Is it allowable to fund trainings for two years with a provision for funding a reduced staff during year 3 to follow-up, assist, and monitor participants of the trainings?

GA #31) Information on contracts can be found in Section II.D. of the [RFP](#).

GQ #32) I have a question on restrictions on type of trainings: basic safety training; sexual harassment training; diversity training; orientation training; and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will not be allowed as a stand-alone training. The RFP states that provision of these types of training is a normal cost of doing business. We are a training center for the laborer's union that supply these types of training for our contractors, it's not a normal cost of doing business for us. I would also like to mention that the restricted classes mentioned are training classes required under the Building Trades Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) pre-apprenticeship curriculum to gain North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) recognition of the program. The NABTU MC3 program is required to have the pre-apprenticeship program be a direct entry provider. My question is, is there an exception to include the restricted classes listed under the RFP for a pre-apprenticeship program?

GA #32) Information on the use of funds, including allowable costs and restrictions on the types of trainings, can be found in Sections II.B.I. and II.B.II. of the [RFP](#), respectively.

GQ #33) Does an organization submitting a proposal need a fully developed clean energy site for training?

GA #33) Information on use of funds can be found in Section II.B. of the [RFP](#). For this specific question, we would direct you to the fourth bullet:

- Funds may be used to directly deliver, or utilize the services of a training provider to deliver, clean energy training/upskilling or pre-apprenticeship programs.

GQ #34) What are the allowable cost percentages for development vs for delivery?

GA #34) As stated in Section II.B.I. of the [RFP](#), no more than 20% of awarded funds can be used to create or expand the curriculum or program, which is considered development. Delivery is providing the trainings, assessments, and wraparound services, and there is no stated required percentage for this in the RFP.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)