New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Request for Applications (RFA) Education Stabilization Fund-Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) Questions and Answers (Q&A)

(Updated 07/11/22. New questions and answers are added frequently and indicated below after each revision date.)

The Request for Application (RFA) for the ESF-RWP program is available on NYSDOL’s Funding Opportunities webpage.

Q #1) What is the purpose of the Reimagine Workforce Preparation Request for Applications?

A #1) The purpose of the Reimagine Workforce Preparation (RWP) Request for Applications (RFA) is to secure the services of eligible organizations that can assist the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) in creating or expanding short-term education and training opportunities that help participants return to work, become entrepreneurs, or expand their small businesses.

Q #2) Is a nonprofit hospital system eligible to apply for the ESF-RWP Grant?

A #2) Yes, a nonprofit hospital system is eligible to apply. Per RFA Section III. A., Applicant Eligibility, eligible applicants include Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs); Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs); business, trade, and professional organizations; business development organizations; non-IHE postsecondary and business-based education and training providers; third-party work-based learning or apprenticeship intermediaries; and state, regional, and local public and private agencies.

Q #3) Can State University of New York (SUNY) and/or City University of New York (CUNY) campuses that have already received RWP funding apply for additional funding through this RFA?

A #3) Yes, these campuses can apply if they are interested in expanding their programming. For instance, this RFA could fund additional training programs not currently funded by the SUNY RWP award or provide free training to more students in a popular training program. As an example to the latter instance, there could be a SUNY campus that currently funds 25 students through the SUNY RWP award, but wants to expand that free training to 100 additional eligible students through NYSDOL’s funding opportunity.

Note that those campuses should be very clear in their NYSDOL RWP application that there is not a duplication of services with the current RWP program.

Q #4) I was recently made aware of this grant opportunity posted in the Grants Gateway for 2022 Reimagine Workforce Preparation (RWP) Request for Applications. It states a deadline for December 30, 2022 in the RFA, but the Grants Gateway states an anticipated award date of July 13, 2022. Can you please confirm the submission and award dates?

A #4) The RWP RFA was released on June 15, 2022 with a submission deadline of December 30, 2022. Applications will be accepted, reviewed, and awarded on an ongoing basis during this timeframe. The July 13, 2022, date in the Grants Gateway is a projected date for the first set of awards, but this is subject to change based on actual application submissions and review timeframes.
New Questions as of 7/11/2022 start below:

Q #5) Can you provide a summary on what type of training/educational programs NYSDOL would be looking for from staffing firms in the state?

A #5) As per RFA Section III. C., Program Services, short-term educational programs are programs that provide not less than 150, and not more than 600, clock hours of instructional time per participant over a period of not less than 8 weeks and not more than 15 weeks.

Short-term educational programs created or expanded under this program must lead to certificates, badges, micro-credentials, licenses, or other workplace-relevant credentials that respond to the needs of businesses or facilitate entrepreneurship. These items are defined in Section VII.

Applicants that do not have their own programs of training are encouraged to enter into contracts with IHEs, such as community colleges, or other eligible training providers to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in high-demand occupations. Training may be provided by the training providers on the NYS Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL), available at https://applications.labor.ny.gov/ETPL/, but this is not a requirement.

Q #6) In section II B “Use of Funds” at subsection 3. Restrictions on Types of Trainings, the RFA indicates “Training required as part of federal, state, or local government mandate” [emphasis added] are “not allowed.” Are we correct in assuming that New York City’s requirement, through its Department of Construction, that various types of workers at various level of function achieve specific multi-hour certification (for example, the 4 Hour Supported Scaffolding User Certification or 10 Hours of Site Safety Training) is not a “mandate” and may be funded under this RFA, since not all workers must get all types of certifications for all types of jobs in construction?

A #6) Yes, that is correct. The examples of trainings listed are specific to a type of certification within the profession and not a standard training for new hires or annual employee training, so can be funded through this funding opportunity.

Please note, training must be at least 150 hours, so a 4-hour Supported Scaffolding User Certification would need to be coupled with an additional 146 hours of training to meet the RFA qualifications.

Q #7) Can I get clarification on how Mohawk Ltd. can benefit from the RWP? I’m unsure of the process and how our organization can benefit from it.

A #7) The purpose of this RWP RFA is to secure the services of eligible organizations that can assist NYSDOL in creating or expanding short-term education and training opportunities that help participants return to work, become entrepreneurs, or expand their small businesses. These activities will assist businesses in addressing an insufficient supply of qualified workers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and will prepare workers with the occupational skills and credentials that businesses so desperately need.

NYSDOL will provide funding for approved cross-collaboration between businesses, workforce development entities, and job seekers, to help create a local talent pool with relevant occupational skills for in-demand occupations and provide a reliable talent pipeline to businesses during these unprecedented times. Examples of this type of collaboration are apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, or similar work-based learning opportunities.