

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Governor’s Reserve Funds

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Request for Workforce Proposals

Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reforms and modernizes workforce development. Seizing the extraordinary opportunity offered by WIOA, Mississippi created an innovative State Plan to produce a more efficient and effective workforce system in our state. We encourage you to read our plan – *The Mississippi Works Smart Start Career Pathway* – at www.mississippiworks.org.

To further spur workforce innovation by the states, WIOA provides Governor’s Reserve Funds to support employment and training activities, as defined in WIOA Section 134(a)(3)(A), and for youth activities, as defined in WIOA Section 129(b)(2). For any program year, not less than 75 percent of youth funds available for statewide activities shall be used to provide youth workforce investment activities for out-of-school youth as defined in WIOA Section 129(a)(4)(A).

Purpose

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is seeking workforce proposals for the use of WIOA Governor’s Reserve Funds. Proposals should be in compliance with WIOA and align with the Mississippi State Plan. These proposals should demonstrate how the idea/concept will assist the State in meeting the goals set forth in the State Plan, as well as the WIOA law and regulations.

MDES will evaluate submitted proposals for allowability, innovation, and alignment with the goals of the State Plan. MDES will make recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

A request for workforce proposal is not an implied award of grant funds. MDES reserves the right to recommend project proposals that best meet the objectives of the Governor and the intent of the WIOA State Plan, and will have the greatest economic benefit for the State.

Funding is limited and the average award for workforce proposals funded in Program Years 2016 and 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018) was \$250,000.

Instructions

Proposals should follow the order below and must include the following information:

1. Identify the proposing organization and title of the activity.
2. Specify the contact information; include contact’s name, title, address, phone number, and email.
3. Identify proposed beginning and end date of the workforce proposal. The duration of the proposal should not exceed 18 months.

4. Provide cost of the proposal. Proposers are encouraged to use leveraged funds to support the effort. Proposers may identify resources such as foundation, private, State, and Federal funding to support proposal activities.
5. Provide a proposal narrative no longer than 4 pages that includes the following:
 - a. Describe activities and services to be provided.
 - b. Describe proposal's goals and how they align with Mississippi's WIOA State Plan.
 - c. Describe measurable outcomes that will be delivered.

Submission

Proposers may submit workforce proposal forms in electronic format (Word or .pdf files) to Robert DeYoung at rdeyoung@mdes.ms.gov at the MDES Office of Grant Management. The subject line should read "Workforce Proposals for Governor's Reserve Funds." All proposals must be submitted by the close of business on **May 31, 2018**.