



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

April 25, 2017

ADDENDUM No. 1 TO ALL APPLICANTS:

Request for Applications: BEN-17-056
Titled: Employment for TANF Participants
Posted : April 6, 2017
REVISED Application Due Date: May 22, 2017 4:00PM

The above referenced RFA is hereby changed to:

1. Section I, A., the following sentence is added to the first paragraph after the first sentence “**Proven** service is defined as evidence-based innovative types of practices.”
2. Section I. A., the following sentence is added to the first paragraph as the next to last sentence “Projects must emphasize and be able to measure a reduction in poverty and help reduce the dependency on public assistance.”
3. Section I. B., the following language in the last paragraph is removed “Given the wide variety of services and potential combinations of geographic groupings and statewide coverage, awards will not exceed \$400,000 to any one subrecipient for the 12 month period. Applicants should be reasonable in their request and recognize that funds need to support services across Virginia.” and replaced with “Applicants should be reasonable in their request.”
4. Section I. C., the following sentence is removed, “As this is a one-year project, only projects with **proven** success will be considered.” and replaced with “This contract may be renewed for up to four (4) one (1) year renewals subject to availability of funding.”
5. Section II, Program Opportunity Description & Requirements, Item B, Program Requirement, 1. Priority Areas, last paragraph first sentence is changed to read “To sustain efforts in the long-term, emphasis should be on services that can be sustained without additional funding through VDSS beyond the grant period.”
6. Section II. B.2. the following is item is added “e. Individuals with income below 200% of the poverty level.”

7. Section II. B. 3. Geographic Coverage is replaced in its entirety to read:
 “Where feasible and/or required to address special needs the following coverage should be used; however no preference will be given to the type of geographic coverage:
- a. Statewide
 - b. Regional or district-wide
 - c. Individual locality

See Appendix D. for a map of Virginia showing VDSS regional boundaries for award purposes”

8. Section II. B. 8.the following items are added:
- k. Number of participants who reduced their reliance on public assistance
 - l. Number of credentials obtained
 - m. Number of higher education certificate and/or degrees
9. Section II. B. 9. a. the first sentence is changed to read “For an employment and retention program to be successful, firmly established and committed community partnerships that demonstrate collaboration are vital.”
10. Section II. B. 9. a. the last sentence is changed to read “Key agencies for partnerships may include philanthropic organization, public and private providers of vocational rehabilitation services, employment service organizations, mental health and substance abuse agencies, providers of care to domestic violence victims, adult education providers, community action agencies and faith-based groups.”
11. Section IV. A. The due date is hereby changed to read "In order to be considered for selection, an Applicant is to submit a complete response to this RFA no later than **4:00 PM EST on May 22, 2017.**”
12. Section VIII. The following item is added

G. RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT: This agreement may be renewed by the grantee upon written agreement of both parties for up to four (4) successive one year periods, under the terms of the current agreement, and at a reasonable time (approximately 90 days) prior to the expiration.

Note: A signed acknowledgement of this addendum (with necessary copies) must be received at the location on the RFA prior to the proposal date and hour and attached to your proposal. Signature on this addendum does not substitute for your signature on the original proposal document. The original document must be signed.

Jennifer Nixon
 Contract Officer
jennifer.nixon@dss.virginia.gov

 Name of Agency

 Signature / Title

 Date

RFA Number: BEN-17-056
Employment for TANF Participants
Responses to Questions

1. Is this grant renewable after five years? The grant is currently only for 1 year but has 4 possible 1 year renewals dependent upon funding made available by the General Assembly.
2. If you apply to serve two regions, can you be a partner in another application in another region? Yes.
3. The VIEW regulations sometimes conflict with long term employment goals. How do we deal with that? The VIEW regulations cannot be changed. Review TANF/VIEW manual for additional information located at www.vdss.virginia.gov
4. Are SSI or SSDI recipients eligible for TANF? No.
5. Can a person who is at the poverty line but not on TANF receive services? With the new changes, yes.
6. Will this funding impact any existing TANF grants? No.
7. Can an applicant target one group out of five allowed participant groups? Yes.
8. Do you need to have a lead agency? Yes.
9. How many partners are permitted? As many as you want.
10. Can existing partnership agreements be used? No. Must relate to this RFA.
11. Will this funding pay for internships? Yes.
12. If I don't do assessments, where will I get referrals? Local DSS agencies.
13. Do you have a preference for one service offered as opposed to multiple? No preference.
14. What about transportation? Transportation is supposed to be handled by local DSS agencies if the participant is enrolled in TANF.
15. Is a match required? Yes, 25%.
16. What is supportive employment? ESO provides on-site job coaching.
17. Would child care be considered a primary strategy? For an interview or emergency but not on a regular basis. Child Care is provided by the local DSS agency for TANF participants who are in a component.
18. Credentialing might take a year and the person may not have a job at end of the first year of the grant. Is that OK? Yes. Make certain that they are doing something to keep them from losing their benefits.
19. Are incentives like gas cards ok? Yes.
20. Could we pay a stipend to someone in the work readiness training program? No, because they are getting TANF.
21. Can funds be used for subsidized work experience? Yes, but subsidized employment is not an outcome as far as actually getting a job.
22. How do you define career pathway? High demand industry with chance for upward mobility.
23. Do you have a recommendation for the average funding per person? No. Will depend on your services and location.
24. Is this a cost reimbursement grant? Yes, you should be able to fund two months up front.
25. Should we get a letter of support from our local DSS? Yes.
26. Would we need a new letter of support from the local DSS? Yes.
27. Can I expand a current project with this funding? Yes.
28. Where do I get poverty stats for my area of the state? The RFA refers to a general reduction in poverty.
29. Do you have a recommendation for the cost of placement? No. It can be different for different agencies. It should be reasonable based on several items including training costs, participants' needs and location of the job.
30. Do you have a specific goal for number of people served? No. It should be reasonable for the amount of funds requested.

31. Can we use funds to rent a space to provide computer skills training? Yes.
32. Can you post the list of attendees of the conference? Yes.
33. Instead of taking indirect costs, can we use those expenses as match in the budget? For the *de minimis* rate of 10%, an applicant does not have to provide documentation or exact calculations of the expenses involved. However, for a match, you would need to show specific calculations and sources of funding.
34. Does my company have to provide all of the services to qualify? NO. There is no requirement to provide all services mentioned in the RFA.
35. What compensation will companies receive for training and hiring TANF recipients? The companies could do On-the-Job Training and receive 50 percent of the total wages or use the Full Employment Program where the employer receives a \$300 a month stipend to reimburse expenses for wages and training. Refer to Appendix B for further information.
36. Would donated space from an outside agency (LDSS) be considered as an in-kind match? Yes, as long as the applicant is using the space to provide services in relation to this RFA and would normally have to pay for it.