

RFA Number: BEN-17-056
Employment for TANF Participants

Round 2 - Responses to Questions

1. Under Section 111, A: Eligible Applicants – Are Community Services Boards considered local government entities in Virginia? Our CSB is a city department.

Yes, CSB's are established by **local governments** pursuant to the Code of **Virginia**.

2. The amendment adds "individuals with income below 200% of poverty level" as populations eligible to receive services. Does this mean that individuals that meet these criteria do not need to be TANF recipients?

They do not need to be TANF recipients; however, TANF recipients are eligible.

3. Can CSB staff who are credentialed in their field but not in employment or rehab certifications be eligible to provide services and CSB be employment support provider under grant even though we are not an ESO? We will have a certified ESO as a partner on the grant but want to know if the grant can also be used for CSB staff to provide employment support services.

Only \$2 million is set aside specifically for ESOs. ESO status is not a requirement for the additional funding (\$5.5 million). Community Service Boards are eligible for the additional funding and to provide employment support services.

4. In reference to Item #21 of the Addendum: I wanted to clarify that a 12-week subsidized work experience **CAN NOT** be counted as a job placement as an outcome. The answer above seems fairly clear, but, there were a couple of questions at the conference that left me a bit fuzzy.

Subsidized work experience cannot be counted as a job placement or an outcome.

5. As to the employer contribution to an On-The-Job training contract, it was mentioned in the pre-application conference it is a 50%/50% split, with **the applicant** paying 50% of the jobseeker's salary and the employer paying 50%. Recently, there was State guidance that applies to other projects that some applicants may be involved in that bases the employer's contribution to the OJT jobseeker's salary on the size, i.e., number of employees. Are there different regulations involving TANF or VIEW recipients engaging in an OJT training contract.

This RFA requires the applicant to pay 50% and the employer to pay 50% of the jobseeker's salary for On-The-Job Training in Appendix B, item 19.

6. Are we required to get new signatures for collaborative agreements if we have previous agreements that were signed March of 2016? (For community partners excluding our local DSS)

Yes, new signatures for collaborative agreements are required.

7. In the RFA, it states funds can't be used "for direct services by LDSS" (page 11). We have the option of creating special project positions. Could we create such a position, pay them out of local funds, and request

reimbursement from the State under this grant? Technically this position is temporary and not part of our City budget. The City has opted to do this rather than going through a temp agency.

A contractor would have to be used, as no direct services to participants are acceptable under the grant.

8. Can funds from the BEN-17-056 solicitation be used to increase services such as additional supported work slots, an increase in current supported work wage, and retention bonuses to our current grant with VDSS (Ben-16-047-14)?

Funds can be used to expand on the current grant.

9. Will vehicle leasing be an allowable expense? We are also considering providing “cluster transportation” if we can place several clients at the same location for up to three months to allow them time to save for personal transportation. Would any or all of this be allowable transportation expenses for TANF-enrolled and/or transitional clients – or could it be considered and budgeted as a “supportive service”? We would not necessarily want to differentiate between them and individuals whose incomes are below 200% but not enrolled if providing these services.

Vehicle leasing is allowed to provide necessary transportation.