

South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
Adult Education and Literacy Program
Responses to *Written Inquiries* for RFP # 2735
27 April 2022

➤ How much are the grant-awards?

This pass-through funding is not disbursed in predetermined or prescribed amounts. As noted in the RFP's Section 7, Applicants must indicate the amount of funds requested for each program and itemize all program costs regardless of whether funds are being requested for a specific expense.

➤ How much do current providers receive?

The Agency can direct Applicants to information which is publicly available. To see the program's current slate of providers, consider this [hyperlink](#). To view the current funding-levels, you will need to visit [OPEN SD's](#) Contracts/Grant search, select "Labor and Regulation" in the *Department* drop-down, then search for the partner-providers' agreements as posted.

➤ Can you share with me the statewide [aggregate] National Reporting System tables for PY2020-21?

The State's public National Reporting System (NRS) data for PY2020 are available at this [hyperlink](#).

➤ Section 4.3.4 denotes any audit reports conducted on the Applicant's operations over the past 3 years. Would it be acceptable to provide DLR a link to each of our audits for the past three years, or do you want the entire audit for each year included?

Operational audit-links would suffice the request.

➤ How many potential students for adult education services do you anticipate throughout Program Year 2022-23?

The Agency can direct Applicants to the public [National Reporting System](#) [tables] to consider South Dakota's pre-COVID levels of participation, as well as more recent figures.

- Can you clarify if an Applicant must provide face-to-face instruction with adult learners? In other words, can this grant-award fund a virtual program?

Within Section 3 of the RFP's Scope of Work, you will note the reference to allowable Adult Education and Literacy Activities—see §203 of [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#). To your question, an Applicant may indeed submit a proposal for a virtual program so long as it falls within the statutory scope of the aforementioned “allowable activities.” Such a program would still need to perform all the required data-collection, assessment-administration, One-Stop coordination, and reporting requirements as outlined in the [National Reporting System](#).

- In Section 3.2.3, Applicants are requested to submit National Reporting System Table 4 and Table 5 for both PY2017-18 and PY2018-19, as well as Table 4A for PY2018-19. It appears these timelines may not have been updated from the previous 2020 Request for Proposal. Could you please provide the correct program years?

There was indeed an oversight with these requested Program Years' data. On 06 April 2022, the WIOA Title II Program contacted the South Dakota Bureau of Administration to publish an *Addendum* to the RFP noting the erroneous time frames; the corrected RFP was also uploaded onto the Department of Labor and Regulation's [website](#).

The subsection under 3.2.3 should therefore read as follows:

- Submit National Reporting System Table 4 and Table 5 for both **PY2019-20** and **PY2020-21**, as well as Table 4A for **PY2020-21**.

- Addendum: Might a focus on longitudinal, historical data [provided in PY2017-18 and PY2018-19], in fact, be more useful in Section 3.2.3 given the pandemic-related context of the era?

Because this grant cycle will potentially serve the WIOA Title II Program and the One-Stop System for the next four years, and because of potential new pandemic-variants or other uncertainties, it would not behoove the Agency to make determinations about an Applicant's Demonstrated Effectiveness based upon pre-pandemic levels of performance. In other words, the Agency seeks partner-providers poised to deliver high-quality instructional services and activities based upon the current realities, as well as partners who possess some ability to respond to unknown challenges of the future.

Moreover, the pandemic seemingly affected nearly everyone to some extent, so its impact has a certain leveling factor. Again, if an Applicant can provide the requested data, and those figures average at least 50% of the agency's statewide/aggregate figures in the respective [and relevant] categories, the application will be further reviewed, scored, and considered for funding. In other words, because we are using the Agency's aggregate data from that same time frame (i.e., pandemic-era) as the basis for comparison, the scope for Demonstrated Effectiveness is thereby aligned.

- In reconciling Sections 1.1 and 1.13 [regarding the availability of funds and the length of the grant-award], should we write this application for all four years *and* include budgets for all four years?

Per the RFP's Section 3.5, you must describe your program's plans and initiatives to improve or address perceived deficits for each Program Year (i.e., PY2022 – PY2025). Moreover, per the RFP's Section 5.2.5, Applicants may submit multiple award proposals. However, the first requirement is not necessarily coupled with the second option. (In other words, while you must programmatically detail all four years of the grant-cycle, you need not submit multiple [years'] budgets as part of the application.)

Please further consider Section 7.3.1, whereby Applicants should detail any changes to the Award Proposal if 75% of requested funds are awarded, as well as if only 50% of requested funds are awarded.

