

Economic Development Pre-Solicitation Meeting
March 28, 2014
Questions and Answers

- Q.** In the target populations, there is a list that includes individuals with criminal history. Does this include individuals with felonies?
- A.** There is no exclusion of individuals with felonies.
- Q.** What if programs are longer than 3 months but shorter than 2 years? Where would they fit?
- A.** The City is interested in funding programs that will address immediate needs. In current scope up to 3 months was identified. However, please submit suggestions or justifications for a longer program that would address immediate needs.
- Q.** The Scope of Work references an increase of over 9000 technology sector, however only up to \$200,000 is targeted to short-term programs. Is the expectation that short-term programs address this increase in jobs with the limited funding?
- A.** Technology was used as an example of the future projections of the skilled labor force that will be needed. It is not meant to suggest that the short-term training has to address the entire need for the technology sector. Additional, at the most recent Public Health and Human Services subcommittee meeting, Council approved the range of funding for both categories (short-term and long-term) based on historical funding levels.
- Q.** Sustained long-term employment
- A.** The expectation would be that applicant will work with participants to provide the training and skills needed for future employment, the support to complete the training, assist them in obtaining employment and also assist them in maintaining employment for a limited time.
- Q.** In the Speed of Business section it references the need to have a relationship with the Economic Development Department and Industry. Does this mean that organizations should have already established relationships with industry and the Economic Development Department?
- A.** In the proposal, if Applicants have a relationship with industry and the Economic Development Department, they should provide that information. Once the selected Applicants are funded, there will be an expectation to work directly with the Economic Development Department and Industry to accomplish the program strategy/strategies.
- Q.** In the Scope of Work there is a request for the cost per participant. Does the City have an amount in mind or a target they are looking for?
- A.** No, the City is requesting that all Applicants calculate their cost per participant and provide justification for the cost.
- Q.** Is there a list of eligible expenses under this grant?
- A.** The contract would be on a reimbursable basis. Because there are a number of exclusions, it would be advisable to submit specific expense or program in question.
- Q.** Is there a way to find out what kinds of programs have been funded in the past?
- A.** Yes, there are a number of websites where you are able to see all of the programs funded through the Social Services. Please go to:
https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/financeonline/contract_catalog/index.cfm, utilizing the keyword search function, search for "Workforce"

- Q.** Can you provide more information about the Evaluation Factors?
- A.** At this time the City is seeking input only on the Scope of Work. Once the Scope of Work is finalized, then the Evaluation Factors will be developed. The Evaluation Factors will be released with the entire Request for Application.
- Q.** The Scope of Work references an Applicant's ability to have a research focus, build relationships with industry and provide the actual training. Is the expectation that the Applicant will become the coordinating entity/convening entity? What are the expectations?
- A.** No, the expectation is not for an Applicant to become the coordinating/convening entity. The expectation is that the Applicant be knowledgeable about the skills needed in this area, understand the skills gap and provide trainings to address the skills gap.
- Q.** Does the skills training for occupations encompass the skills needed for self-employment?
- A.** No, this is not geared for self-employment. The focus is the business skills gap and the need for talent. This is not targeting self-employed.
- Q.** This solicitation does not reference a particular age. Can clients/participants be 16 year olds?
- A.** There is no age limit for the clients/participants that will be served.