

FAQ's about "WINGS" - Workforce Innovative New Generation Solutions

1. Question: Can an RWB submit more than one proposal to this solicitation if one would be specifically geared to Green Jobs, and one specifically for Business Incubation/Entrepreneurship, etc.?

Answer: As stated in the Purpose 1.0 "Applicants can apply for one or more of the three areas individually or can offer a project that spans more than one.

2. Question: May a coalition of two or more RWB's partner to submit a multi-region proposal?

Answer: Yes, however, "there will be no more than one award per region." (3.0). The maximum individual project award is \$500,000.00 (2.0)

3. If an educational institution such as a university which serves a broad area spanning two or more RWB service areas is the applicant, may that proposal include more than one RWB and serve multiple regions or must the project service area be restricted to just one RWB service area.

Answer: Again, yes "If the applicant is not a regional workforce board, then an MOU Memorandum of Understanding) signed by both parties clearly outlining the relationship must be attached to the submission (3.0). Additionally, "there will be no more than one award per region" (3.0).

4. Can you please provide some elaboration on what role Workforce has in improving access. We have consulted with our community college and they can offer training on the skills needed to serve broadband industry but none of us in this region are in a position to address access, which implies to us establishing the communications nodes and links. These are major engineering and hardware acquisitions far outside of our domain. Please clarify what is being sought. Are you asking us for a study of the region to determine what our requirements are? If so, again, that is the purview of the economic developers at the RACEC?

Answer: Although Florida is the fourth most populous state in the U.S., it has substantial areas that are rural. Nearly 30% percent of its total land area is farmland, and an additional 10% of the state is set aside for recreation and preservation in the form of state and federal parks, forests, wilderness areas, wildlife preserves, and national seashores. As of the 2000 Census, 32 of Florida's 67 counties are considered rural. In area, these 32 counties cover just over 42 percent of Florida's nearly 54,000 square miles of land area. Approximately 1.1 million of Florida's 16 million citizens live in those rural counties.

Rural communities have traditionally been disadvantaged and are unserved or underserved. For this reason, Workforce Florida's Board of Directors Chair, Belinda Keiser, has identified workforce strategies that assist Florida's special rural needs as a top priority. Strategies need to be developed to build the future of rural Florida in order to help rebuild the economy. The Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development has identified opportunities for broadband infrastructure as a promising opportunity under the Recovery Act. By bringing end user access to broadband, rural communities will be able to fully embrace technologies essential to workforce and economic development advancement, include distance learning, telemedicine, and entrepreneurial business development.

Proposals for rural needs should focus on workforce solutions for improving broadband/telecommunications access in Florida's rural counties as well as health information technology improvement.

5. Question: In regards to the WINGS grant solicitation, could you tell me if registered apprenticeship programs are considered "educational institutions?"

Answer: An apprenticeship program is not considered an educational institution for the purposes of this proposal.

6. Question: May a coalition of two or more RWB's partner to submit a multi-region proposal?

Answer: Yes, however, "There will be no more than one award per region." (3.0). The maximum individual project award is \$500,000.00.

7. Question: If an educational institution such as a university which serves a broad area spanning two or more RWB service areas is the applicant, may that proposal include more than one RWB and serve multiple regions or must the project service area be restricted to just one RWB service area?

Answer: Again, yes. "If the applicant is not a regional workforce board, then an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed by both parties clearly outlining the relationship must be attached to the submission (3.0). Additionally, "there will be no more than one award per region" (3.0).

8. Question: We wanted to confirm whether or not Workforce Florida expected the trainees themselves to meet any kind of criteria for eligibility - whether it be age, income level, employment status (or lack thereof), etc. For instance, some agencies offering training grants have required the trainees to be displaced workers, or employed in a particular industry, or below a certain income level. Is WFI placing any sort of restriction on who can be trained under this grant? Other than perhaps that they live and work in Florida

Answer: Yes, an applicant will need to be 18 years or older, registered for Selective Service (if applicable), and authorized to work in the U.S.

9. Question: Can a letter from a nonprofit be submitted agreeing to execute a MOU upon award of funding? Are the nonprofits, who will implement specific sections of the proposal, partners or subcontractors?

Answer: There are no exceptions to the MOU a "letter" can not be presented in lieu of an MOU. The signatures are needed from those authorized to sign on behalf of the RWB and the other entity.