

PAsmart Career & Technical Education Pre-Apprenticeships Grant Program

Bidder's Conference Q&A – July 9, 2024

Please Note: All questions and answers have been paraphrased.

Q: Our organization is currently receiving funds from a PA DOL Grant (Schools to Work). Are we eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?

A: Yes, organizations currently receiving PA DOL Schools to Work Grants are eligible for a PAsmart grant.

Q: Do pre-apprentices and/or participants in this grant need to be eligible under WIOA?

A: No, the pre-apprentices/participants do not need to be eligible under WIOA.

Q: Under Required Activities: Are we required to do all four bullets? If so, please explain the difference between the second and third bullets. i.e., p. 8 in the NGA document

A: Required activities outlined are intended to frame the types of services and/or activities permitted that would be necessary for successful program delivery. Please see page 9 under Performance Metrics for a successful project outcomes list.

Q: What industry pre-apprenticeships can this grant serve? Is Manufacturing an industry that can be supported?

A: The PAsmart grant funding may support the manufacturing industry.

Q: Must the pre-apprenticeship be tied to an already established apprenticeship program? If so, how would you create a new apprenticeship?

A: Each pre-apprenticeship program establishes a connection to at least one existing registered apprenticeship program and delivers both hands-on and instructional-based learning through a variety of unique program designs and approaches. In order to create an apprenticeship, an organization will need to work with an Apprenticeship Training Representative (ATR) to develop the standards to an apprenticeship. The ATO will assist an organization in connecting with an ATR.

Q: Can this grant support a pre-apprenticeship for 18-year-old or older, that support a linkage from CTC student to this program post-graduation, or do the participants have to be attending the CTC? We have an existing Pre-apprenticeship and Apprenticeship, but want to link to our CTCs/

A: Yes, the grant may support 18-year-old or older pre-apprentices. Pre-apprentices do not need to be post-graduation. The participant does not need to be attending a CTC.

Q: Is there an age requirement for participants, i.e., can the grant serve high school age, etc.?

A: The intent of the grant funds is to build an initiative to foster partnerships between career and technical education students and employers for future work opportunities through apprenticeships. The

NGA permits development of new pre-apprenticeships or expand existing pre-apprenticeships to target career and technical education students.

Q: Are high schools eligible as partners or just CTEs?

A: The grant is not specific to CTEs. High schools may apply or may partner with CTEs.

Q: If our aligned registered apprenticeship is state-wide, would this suffice, or would the registered pre-apprenticeship need to align with 2 additional registered apprenticeships?

A: In order to meet the requirements of a multiple county reach and align with at least 3 registered apprenticeships (RAs) to reach 40 pre-apprentices, there will need to be 3 RAs.

Q: Did I hear correctly that the WIB must be the financial lead?

A: No, the WIB or LWDB does not need to be the financial lead.

Q: How would new sector programs align with existing registered apprenticeship programs?

A: There are several new sector registered apprenticeships in Pennsylvania. Please reach out to apprenticeship@pa.gov for a complete list.

Q: Can reimbursements for grant expenses occur while the pre-apprenticeship is under review by ATO?

A: Yes, applicants may develop a budget that charges program staff time for the development of the pre-apprenticeship.

Q: Does a multi county grant proposal need to be for the same pre-apprenticeship program across multiple counties or can a multi county proposal include different pre-apprenticeship programs in each county?

A: The pre-apprenticeship does not need to be the same for each county in a multi-county approach. The pre-apprenticeships do need to align w/ a registered apprenticeship.

Q: Does development of a pre-apprenticeship need to include enrollment of pre-apprentices during the grant period, or can the proposal just include activities that would support creating the pre-apprenticeship with the intention of enrolling students in the pre-apprenticeship after the grant period?

A: Review the required outcomes of the NGA on page 8 and the Performance Metrics on page 9. Both areas note served numbers.

Q: Is a LWDB eligible to submit a proposal for the PAsmart Pre-Apprenticeship Grant due on July 22nd if you have the PAsmart Growing RAPs and Pre-RAPS grant?

A: Organizations are eligible to have multiple active PAsmart grants as long as the organization will be able to reach pre-apprentices that are separate from the pre-apprentices being served by the PY21 PAsmart grant.