Youth Demonstration Grant Conference Call Follow-up

February 18, 2020

Career Exploration

1. **Are there other targeted outcomes from the grant other than projected numbers of participants including youth, employers and educators?**
   a. There are no federal performance requirements with the Career Exploration grant. TDLWD and TDOE expects participants to gain an experience that improve attitudes, altitude, and knowledge of career opportunities for successful career pathway preparations.

2. **Will any individual data tracking be required on participants? Data entry?**
   a. The Career Exploration grant is a statewide activity for youth and will not require participant tracking. If an area decides to deliver direct participant services as defined in 20 CFR 681.410(a) and TEGL 21-16, all program eligibility and tracking will be required.

3. **Is bus transportation an allowable expense?**
   a. Yes, bus transportation is an allowable

4. **Can we purchase career awareness materials with the grant funds to give to students at the events?**
   a. Yes, career awareness, and outreach materials are an allowable expense. Please refer to Uniform Guidance, and One Stop Branding guidelines.

5. **The Career Expo proposal states that events should focus on "one OR three" of the top industry sectors. Is it correct that we cannot focus on just two of the top industry sectors?**
   a. The State Workforce Development Board has encouraged regional alignment across local workforce areas. The intended purposes of an area focusing on three (3) industry sectors will allow areas flexibility to focus on their regional economic growth or the local workforce industry needs

6. **Will these funds be included in the 50% in school youth maximum expenditure calculation?**
   a. These funds do not provide direct services to participants and therefore will not be required to adhere to the youth expenditure requirement.

7. **Can these funds be utilized for advertising?**

a. Advertising is not an allowable expense. Outreach however is an allowable expense.

8. **Can funds utilized for events that are already in the works?**
   a. Yes, these funds can support events that meet the program design requirements and are occurring March 2, 2020 – June 30, 2020.

9. **Are local areas able to split funds between multiple career exploration events?**
   a. Yes, these funds can be used to support multiple career exploration events that meet the program design requirements and are occurring March 2, 2020 – June 30, 2020.

10. **Submission requirements. Grants4TN?**
    a. Submission of proposals will be done utilizing the following link: https://www.tn.gov/workforce/contact-the-department0/boards---commissions/boards---commissions-redirect/state-workforce-development-board/ydg.html
    b. Fiscal reporting requirements will continue to be submitted utilizing Grants4TN.

11. **Corrections education support. How can these funds be utilized to support?**
    a. We advise connecting with the local workforce board in the area of interest to explore additional partnership opportunities. Find your local workforce development area (LWDA) contact information here: https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/job-search1/find-local-american-job-center.html

Work Based Learning Demonstration

1. **Is there a requirement to partner with identified schools/WBL programs that were emailed out and/or a school in a distressed or at-risk county? The email list seemed to indicate that it had to be on the list or in a targeted county.**
   a. Phase I of the grant requires LWDA to partner with a school district that has a TDOE approved WBL program. Due to the numerous barriers in our rural or at-risk counties some local schools have not established a sustainable WBL program for their students. For this reason, TDLWD and TDOE will consider proposals that partner with distress and at-risk counties to provide a WBL experience for their students. The proposal must provide a plan on how the

local workforce development area will support the local education agency in developing a robust WBL program for their students.

2. **Do participating young people need to have an ISS that reflects WIOA requirements, a WBL learning plan, or both?**

    a. The WBL learning plan should be used as tool to support the development of the individual service strategy (ISS). The WBL learning plan provides the framework and action steps needed for the student to complete a high-quality WBL experience, and identifies a career pathway that includes education and employment goals, as does the ISS. The case manager should reference the developed WBL learning plan to assist in identifying barriers that could prevent the student from accomplishing their long and/or short term goals. As outlined in the [Youth Program Service Design](#) guidance, a new service strategy for a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent service strategy developed for the participant under another education training program.

3. **Do participants have to have their work experiences coordinated by a WBL-certified teacher?**

    a. The goal of this partnership is to leverage resources and maximize opportunities for eligible Youth. A high-quality WBL experience should be allow simultaneous coordination of the WBL-certified teacher and the local workforce area. Agencies hope to see a deepened partnership and service delivery with local schools districts and workforce partners by leveraging expertise and resources.

4. **What are the negotiated performance targets for ISY in TN? Will these be the targets that students are expected to adhere? Might be beneficial to list these for organizations that are not familiar with WIOA performance measures. (Same thing with WIOA eligibility)**

    a. The State's WIOA negotiated targets for PY 19 Youth can be found in the chart below.

YOUTH	State Negotiated Target PY19
Participants	NA
Exiters	NA
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after exit	79.50%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter after exit	76.00%
Median Earnings 2nd Quarter after exit	Baseline
Credential Attainment Rate	72.00%
Measurable Skills Gains	Baseline

TN Department of Education has been provided information on WIOA Youth eligibility to assist in identifying potential eligible youth. Local WBL coordinators or teachers will not be responsible for determining eligibility. This will be the responsibility of the grant recipient (LWDB staff or career service provider). WBL teachers and coordinators will have constant contact and interactions with the teachers, and will be vital in assisting career service providers or LWDB staff in case managing. Please remember this grant is not a performance driven grant and its intent is to help economically disadvantaged youth who have barriers to employment and/or post-secondary.

5. **Are participants in this grant also expected to show progress towards goals identified in ISS or WBL Plan?**
   a. Yes, all programs and services are designed to promote economic mobility and prosperity for vulnerable Tennesseans. If the LWDB is intents to offer an incentive for completion or achievements, those milestones should show progress towards their goal in their ISS and WBL Plan.
6. **Does the 8 week WBL have to be completed by 6/30/20? If not, will we receive funding to cover WBL in July?**
   a. Phase I of the grant will conclude 06/30/2020, and Phase II of the grant will have an effective date of 07/01/2020. Funding announcement for Phase II of the grant will be released at a later date, no later than April 30, 2020.
7. **Can the 10% required to support classroom training / academic education include purchasing software to be used by program participants?**

a. Yes, please ensure you consult with the local school prior to purchase of software to determine the needs for the students. Please refer to Uniform Guidance

8. **Can funds be used to purchase software for other components such as financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills training, and assisting youth transition to post-secondary training?**

    a. Yes, please ensure you consult with the local school prior to purchase of software to determine the needs for the students. Please refer to Uniform Guidance

9. **Can funding be utilized for additional staff?**

    a. This funding does not support additional staffing costs. Five percent (5%) of total award funding will be reserved for local board administrative costs and no more than ten percent (10%) can be allotted for programmatic staff charges. Hiring part-time staff at the board level is acceptable as long as it does not exceed the 5% allotment.

10. **Can we hire at the board level a college student that is WIOA Title I eligible and provide a work-based learning opportunity for them to maintain this proposal?**

    a. To hire an enrolled, eligible WIOA Title I participant to oversee WIOA funded initiatives would is not allowable. This would be considered "double dipping" because the funding source supporting this individual would be the same.

11. **Do you have to apply and execute phase I in order to utilize phase II?**

    a. Yes, LWDAs must execute phase I in order to implement phase II because this will be an extension of phase I.

12. **Can we extend the deadline of the proposals?**

    a. The State has extended the deadline of proposals to **February 24, 2020 by 12:00pm.**

13. **Will this proposal include a robust plan for how the LWDA plans to execute phase II?**

    a. No. Phase I proposal does not have to include a robust plan for executing phase II. A separate notice will be released for phase II and that is where you will detail phase II.

14. **What would be the best work around for the 5% administrative costs?**

    a. This will depend on what the board staff would be doing. The LWDB can choose to execute the services at the board level or choose to utilize service

provider. Board staff will have to ensure that appropriate staff charges are monitored.

15. Can phase II funds include more than just follow-up activities?

    a. Yes, phase II funds can also support continued work experience. If a youth does not complete the 8 week work experience by June 30, 2020, phase II funds can be used for the remaining weeks.

16. Youth expenditure rate. When does the new waiver period begin?

    a. These funds will not impact or take into consideration the local expenditure rates. This WBL demonstration project is utilizing Statewide funds and will adhere to the Statewide youth expenditure rate of 50/50.

17. Amount of funding available for WBL demonstration.

    a. The State has budgeted approximately $1.2 million for the entire WBL demonstration.

Please submit any additional questions via: https://www.tn.gov/workforce/contact-the-department0/boards---commissions/boards---commissions-redirect/state-workforce-development-board/ydg.html