

# **Request for Proposals**

## **Statewide Reserve and Transition Funding**

**December 2016**

**Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet**

**Department of Workforce Investment**

# Local Supplemental Funding Opportunities

Kentucky has received both Transition funding as well as final dollar amounts of the Statewide Reserve funding. In support and continuation of previous initiatives, identified needs, and plans and directives outlined by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB), the Department of Workforce Investment welcomes local workforce areas, alone or in combination, to apply for the following categories of funds to help support local and regional needs and priorities. In addition, to enable the implementation of elements found in the forthcoming Regional Innovation Plans.

- Innovation and Impact Fund
- Sector and Career Pathway Fund
- Youth Fund

Workforce areas and regions are invited to apply for these funds via a non-competitive process that enables allocation of funds as long as basic criteria are met. Local areas and/or regional applications can be submitted for all topics of funding. All projects must be submitted prior to Dec. 30, 2017. Funding must be expended by June 30, 2018. Where match funding is requested, both federal and state dollars will qualify for match requirement.

## **Local Innovation and Impact Fund - New approaches to serving businesses and individuals:**

**Purpose:** Provide funding to local areas and regions to spark investment into innovation and partnership

Each LWDA may receive up to \$100,000 if the project secures a match including any other sources of funds including both federal and state funding and meets a few basic criteria – sustainability, sector and alignment with local and regional innovation priorities.

The required match can also be met if two or more local workforce investment areas partner to create a proposal of a regional innovation or impact.

**1. Sustainability:** Understanding the importance of project sustainability, LWDA's responding to this request will need to describe the development and implementation plans for diversifying funding. This includes increasing programmatic and organizational sustainability through a combination of several strategies including:

- Building and sustaining relationships with other local areas, community partners and foundations;
- Developing stronger ties to local corporations as well as to small businesses; and
- Improving and innovating current initiatives to generate more revenue.

**2. Sector:** Describe how the project is informed by, connected to and/or supports sector strategies and investments in the applicable geography.

**3. Alignment with local and regional innovation priorities:**

- Bring together management teams, associations, organizations and labor around the common purpose of improving the efficiency of a targeted sector, meeting critical human resource needs and addressing infrastructure requirements, business services and/or retention/recruitment challenges;
- Encompass companies or organizations producing similar products or services and sharing similar supply chains and
- Intent to help support and implement regional innovation plans.

**Amount:** Up to \$100,000 for each LWDA with match required

Narrative to include – one to three pages.

- a. Project overview, including how the initiative represents an innovative practice and/or is designed to have significant impact in meeting the needs of businesses and individuals.
- b. Timeframe and outcomes
- c. Audience and numbers served
- d. Budget (See Attachment B for sample)
- e. Partners and their roles in the project
- f. Discussion of the above factors: sustainability, sector(s) and alignment with local and regional innovation priorities.

## **Sector and Career Pathway Fund:**

**Purpose:** Support expanded responsibilities under WIOA and ongoing work surrounding sector and career pathway development. This initiative will provide funding for talent development and career pathway work within regions addressing the state-level targeted sectors identified by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board and the Economic Development Cabinet as well as local and regional targeted sectors. States, regions and local boards are charged with expanded roles in this area under WIOA. As defined by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, an industry or sector partnership is a workforce collaborative, convened by or acting in partnership with a State board or local board, that:

**1. Organizes key stakeholders in an industry cluster into a working group that focuses on the shared goals and human resources needs of the industry cluster and that includes, at the appropriate stage of development of the partnership and is led by business:**

- a. Representatives of multiple businesses or other employers in the industry cluster, including small and medium-sized employers when applicable;
- b. One or more representatives of a recognized State labor organization or central labor council, or another labor representative, as appropriate; and
- c. One or more representatives of an institution of higher education with, or another provider of, education or training programs that support the industry cluster; and

**2. May include representatives of:**

- a. state or local government;
- b. state or local economic development organizations;
- c. state boards or local boards, as appropriate;
- d. a state workforce agency or other entity providing employment services;
- e. other state or local agencies;
- f. business or trade associations;
- g. nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations; or intermediaries;
- h. philanthropic organizations;
- i. industry associations; and
- j. other organizations, as determined to be necessary by the members comprising the industry or sector partnership.

**Amount:** Up to \$50,000 for workforce region proposals OR \$20,000 for local workforce area proposals

**1. Provide a narrative of your proposed program and include:**

- a. program outcomes
- b. audience and numbers served
- c. budget (See Attachment B for sample)
- d. partners and their roles in the project

# Youth Collaborative around Work-Based Learning and High-Quality Youth Services:

**Purpose:** Provide systemic support to retool youth service strategies to meet new WIOA expectations

Several significant changes in WIOA involve youth services. Regional resources are available to assist in service redesign, training for service providers and employer outreach efforts for youth employment opportunities.

Local areas should demonstrate commitment to providing high-quality services for all youth and young adults, beginning with career exploration and guidance, sustained support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training in high demand industries, sectors and occupations (such as pre-apprenticeships or internships) ending with a good job along a career pathway, enrollment in postsecondary education or a registered apprenticeship. Initiatives need to support youth serving programs that stimulate tactics to assist in achieving high-levels of performance in preparing young people for the workforce with a strong emphasis on serving out of school youth. In addition, a strong emphasis on work based learning should be emphasized including real-life work experiences where they can apply academic and technical skills and develop their employability included but not limited to: apprenticeships, internships, job shadowing and entrepreneurship.

Local areas are tasked with generating awareness about the availability of these funds and partner with organizations that will design and deliver innovative programming and comprehensive services that result in OSY ages 16-24 achieving academic and employment success.

A. WIOA Program Requirements: Section 129(c) (1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, states that funds allocated to youth service providers shall be used for the following:

**1. Provide an objective assessment of each participant, which includes a review of academic levels, basic skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, employability, interests, aptitudes, supportive service needs and development needs.**

**2. Develop personalized service strategies based on assessment data identifying career pathways and include education and employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives and appropriate supportive services.**

**3. Provide:**

- a. Activities leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent or a recognized postsecondary credential;
- b. Preparation for postsecondary educational and training opportunities;
- c. Strong linkages between academic learning and occupational learning;
- d. preparation for unsubsidized employment opportunity; and
- e. Effective connections to intermediaries with strong links to job market and local regional employers

**Amount:** \$50,000 for workforce region proposals OR \$20,000 for local workforce area proposals

**1. Provide a brief narrative of your proposed program and include:**

- a. Identify the region or local area; if applying for \$50,000 in regional funding, include signatures from each local workforce development area executive director.
- b. program outcomes
- c. audience and numbers served
- d. budget (See Attachment B for sample)
- e. partners and their roles in the project including demonstration the program is business led