

Questions submitted between March 14 and March 30:

3/14/18

Q: When will the PD Coordination RFP be released?

A: The PD RFP will be released after the provider grants are awarded.

3/16/18

Q: Please confirm that the "application" for RIW is the form on pages 63-66. Will RIW applicants need to submit a budget?

A: The Rhode Island Works/Project Opportunity application is on pages 63-66. Applicants must complete this part of the application in addition to the full RFP application, Sections A-E. No budgets are submitted for Project Opportunity grants since these funds are based on a reimbursement method. These pages are not included in the 30 page maximum.

3/18/18

Q: The RFP refers to GED, high school equivalent and high school credential. It specifically refers to the GED in the GED Plus priority. Can another high school equivalent, such as the Career Online High School which is SACS/AdvancED/NCA/NWAC accredited be used instead of the GED?

[www.careeronlinehs.org/program](http://www.careeronlinehs.org/program)

A: The Rhode Island Department of Education's High School Equivalency Diploma is awarded based on the successful completion of the GED® test. RIDE does not recognize any other equivalency assessments, so the answer is no.

3/19/18

Q: If a program is applying for Project Opportunity funding, should they include a budget for this? If so, would this be part of the main budget, or a separate budget?

A: No budget is necessary for the Project Opportunity application.

Q: What are the priority geographic areas for Project Opportunity? Is Kent County considered a priority area for Project Opportunity?

A: All programs in all counties may apply for the Project Opportunity grant funds.

Q: Is there a recommended hourly wage for instructors (as there was in last year's reapplication)?

A: There is a recommended range and a suggested rate. Based on the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, the 2015 median pay for an Adult Literacy teacher is \$24.17 per hour. The average rate for a beginning K-12 educator in

Rhode Island is comparable. Based on this information and in order to attract and retain high quality teachers, RIDE recommends compensating teachers within a range of \$22 - \$26, but suggests that eligible agencies pay teachers a minimum of \$24 per hour for teaching, preparation and professional development time.

Q: Programs are expected to have an in-house Professional Learning Specialist. Will there be additional funding available to support this position?

A: There is no additional funding for this position. Programs need to build the salary of this position into their overall budget.

Q: Can programs request funding for providing professional development services to the field? Will this be part of forthcoming RFP about Professional Development services?

A: The RFP for statewide professional development for the field will be forthcoming after the RFP for adult education funding is concluded.

Q: If a current RIDE grantee is not funded under this RFP, will they need to turn in any equipment purchased with RIDE funding? For example, Chromebooks?

A: Yes, any equipment (including Chromebooks) purchased with RIDE funding is the property of RIDE and must be returned to RIDE if the program is no longer funded by RIDE. Instructions on this process will be released before the end of the fiscal year.

3/26/18

Q: For the Funding Request Summary section - Amount Requested: Indicate the TOTAL amount of funds being requested in this request for proposal. Is this total amount for one year or all 3 years of the grant?

A: The amount is for one year, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Q: Will any employment and post-secondary data from 2016/2017 be available through data matching processes from RIDE? Since table 5 in CALIS won't show the data, is there an alternate way to obtain this data?

A: The 2016-2017 data on employment and postsecondary education outcomes was for the first year of WIOA outcomes and is not yet available in CALIS. Programs should use other methods to obtain the data, including contacting students where possible.

Q: (Page 45): Appendix C. Rhode Island Performance Outcome History: Do programs need to indicate the EFL performance percentage on this form?

A: Indicate the percentage of students who made educational functioning level gains in each ABE and ESL level. For example, if 20 students are enrolled in a level in one year and 10 of those students in that level made educational gains, the percentage would be  $10/20 = 50\%$ .

Q: (Page 46): Appendix C. Other Academic Outcomes: If students participated in a program where they were co-enrolled in a CCRI class AND transitioned to and enrolled in postsecondary education, are they recorded in both categories on this form.

A: No, if a student was co-enrolled in adult education and postsecondary education and receiving credit for the postsecondary course while still enrolled in adult education, then that student would be in the "Postsecondary Credit while Enrolled in Adult Education" only. The second category, "Transition to and Enrolled in Postsecondary Education," is only for students who exit adult education first and then transition to postsecondary.

Q: (Page 46): Appendix C: Employment Outcomes: Industry Recognized Credentials. Do NorthStar certifications fall into this category?

A: At this time, when a student passes all the required NorthStar exams, this can count for one credential.

Q: (Page 46): Appendix C: Employment Outcomes: Enter or Retain Employment. The CALIS FY17 outcome report for enter or retain employment is not working. Will this report be fixed before April 25th?

A: At this time, it is not certain that this report will be available before April 25, 2018.

3/28/18

Q: If we are applying for funding in both GED plus and career preparation and training, do we write about both priorities under section B (academic instructional strategies) of the RFP? Or do we respond about the career preparation and training (IET program) under section C of the RFP?

A: The recommendation is to include information about both priorities in both Sections B and C. GED Plus programming will have a stronger focus in Section B while Career Preparation will have a stronger focus in Section C.

Q: Does section D supporting specific populations include homeless, ex-offender, mental illness, trauma and addiction?

A: WIOA, and this RFP, refer specifically to English language learners in Consideration 13 and individuals with disabilities in Consideration 2. However, WIOA also requires states to serve all individuals with barriers to employment, including the homeless, ex-offenders, and other individuals with multiple barriers to employment. It would be appropriate for an applicant serving these individuals to mention it in Section D.

Q: The number of allowable narrative pages is 30 pages. If we are applying for RIW, are pages 63-65, the RIW application, included in the 30-page limit.

A: No, the Rhode Island Works application is not included in the 30 page maximum.