

Questions Submitted via Email between March 31 and April 10

- 1) Can grant funding be used for learner incentives such as gift cards for perfect attendance or completion of an internship?

ANSWER: No, grant funding may only be used for allowable activities, that are “necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of Federal awards” and also state awards used to match the federal awards.

- 2) Where can the federal negotiated targets for the next 3 years for RI be found? Have the targets been determined yet?

A: The future targets have not been posted publicly. When they are formally approved, they will appear on the Performance Review spreadsheet for funded programs.

How the targets are determined: The actual performance from 2016-2017 was 51% of all students making educational functioning level gains, or Measurable Skill Gains. Based on the federal requirement for continuous improvement, Rhode Island’s target for 2018-2019 is proposed to be 52% and for 2019-2020 is proposed to be 53%. These targets have not been formally negotiated or approved by OCTAE yet. The target for 2020-2021 has not been proposed yet.

- 3) Is there a rubric for the grant readers that has already been developed and can you post it on this website?

A: The scoring rubric for the grant readers will reflect the points allocated for each section and the corresponding Narrative Criteria; it will not be posted publicly. Please note that Section D is worth 10 points, as stated on page 18. Page 2 and page 27 incorrectly state 15 points.

- 4) Is the 20% match required for the Project Opportunity Program?

A: No, the 20% match is not required for Project Opportunity.

- 5) How many Project Opportunity students were referred for ABE or GED services in Providence?

A: Historical data is available for 2016-2017: approximately 70 students were referred for ABE and GED services in Providence, and approximately 220 were referred for ESL services in Providence.

- 6) Our impression from the bidder’s conference on April 3 was that there are only three options: 1. individual grant, 2. consortium grant, 3. business partnership grant. We also foresee that the latter two are presented as single applications with one lead. Another alternative which you have permitted is the participation in one or more consortiums if you are not a lead yourself.

For those AE orgs and Higher ED organizations considering RI Best there appears to be limitations under the Consortium or Business Partnership Model given that we as Higher Ed. org may not be in the position to be the fiscal agent overseeing the application or the subcontracted party and thereby ruling out a one single application option for that arrangement.

Is it allowable for an institution of higher education to partner with both employers and other adult education organizations?

Answer: Because RIDE is promoting RI-BEST models, a college will be allowed to enter into a consortium with an adult education lead organization for the purposes of RI-BEST. The college may also submit an application as an "Institution of Higher Education" with (or without) employer partners and be the lead agency.