



Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Funding RFP to be Released End of September

The Fiscal Year 2016 budget included a line item for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund. Working with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Commonwealth Corporation plans to issue a request for proposals in late September. In order to allow prospective applicants additional time to prepare for this round of funding we are issuing the following summary.

Commonwealth Corporation will seek applications that propose to train and place un/underemployed Massachusetts residents into jobs within a target sector or target occupational cluster.

- Grant awards for this purpose will not exceed \$200,000.
- Applicants will be required to propose at least 30% match (in-kind or cash) to the requested amount of grant funds.
- Grants will be no longer than 2 years in duration.
- Applicants will be required to propose goals for:
 - Enrollments
 - Completions
 - Credentials
 - Job placement at 30 days retention

- Applications must include at least a minimum of two businesses with operations in Massachusetts and that employ Massachusetts residents in the target occupations.
- Applicants will be required to provide data from local employer partners to justify demand for new hires (for example: occupations at each employer, current and projected vacancies, skills and credentials required and average starting wage).
- Applications that include specific hiring commitments will receive favorable consideration. However, it will also be acceptable for business partners to commit to interviewing program graduates and to cite the number of vacancies they anticipate filling with graduates from the proposed program.

- Organizations that have funding to deliver the same program over the same time period covered by WCTF funding (approx. 6/16–6/18) are not likely to be prioritized in funding decisions.
- Applicants will be required to submit a letter of intent in advance of the application submission deadline.

In addition, up to an additional \$25,000 may be requested by organizations that propose to conduct planning, capacity building or other system change activities that will result in an improvement to the implementation of workforce development activities for the target sector. Organizations applying for this funding will be required to, at a minimum, partner with their local workforce investment board and career center.

Please note that this communication will not supersede any content included in the request for proposals. While it is not anticipated, guidelines are subject to change as we develop and finalize the RFP. The request for proposals will be the document of record; we advise all potential applicants to read the RFP in detail. Additionally, please reserve all questions about this grant opportunity until after we have released the RFP. The RFP will provide guidance about how to submit questions. Once released the RFP will be available at www.commcorp.org