

RPI- SlingShot 4.0 Webinar Q&A

November 20, 2020

Q: Regarding the regional plan - when will the final directive be out? Or more importantly, are there any major changes to the draft directive? If there are major changes it would be important to know those now, when writing the RPI 4.0 application/regional plan implementation activities. The goals and outcomes for 4.0 were different than those described in the regional plan draft directive. My question is asking for an explanation between these indicators and outcomes, and the 4 areas that are required in the regional plan as far as numeric goals.

A: The final directive will be released within the next 3-4 weeks. The summary of comments are being drafted and final changes are being made to the directive as appropriate. Based on the feedback received, there could be changes to the outcome measures that are outlined in the draft directive.

During the RPI 4.0 call the response that was provided to this question is noted below however there is a chance that the numerical goals will be removed. Upon award, the Evaluator and Technical Assistance Provider will provide guidance on developing metrics and benchmarks for reaching the goals that will be included in the final directive.

Response provided during the RPI 4.0 Application webinar (note: as mentioned above the numerical goals may be removed).

Draft Directive has Outcomes for the 4 year plan that include:

- How many individuals will be placed in jobs that align with sectors emphasized in regional plan.
- How many individuals will complete training aligned with sectors emphasized in the regional plan.
- How many individuals will attain industry recognized credentials aligned with sectors emphasized in regional plan.
- How does RPU measure efforts to get workforce program participants on a path to the middle class. RPI 4.0 focuses on benchmarking and tracking progress towards the Regional Plan outcomes with added emphasis on race and equity.

Q: It seems backwards that we would submit this prior to the regional plan being complete. How can we write about our regional plan goals when we haven't had our stakeholder meetings yet to get input?

A: The funds and grant application do occur prior to the completion of the regional plans however the RPI work is a continuum so the hope is that the overarching goals will be a continuation, refinement and expansion of the existing regional plan and efforts. The process to distribute the RPI 4.0 funds is lengthy so the goal is to have funds allocated to begin implementation on time.

Q: For procurement purposes, is the procurement occurring at the State level if we include the specific names, amounts and roles/responsibilities for subcontractors in the application?

A: Review EDD Directive WSD 18-06 to determine which agencies are sub recipients and which agencies are contractors. All contractors need to be procured.

Q: The Regional Plan Directive contains language that region's will not be negatively impacted for failing to meet regional goals. Is that also the case for these funds?

A: The objective for the RPI 4.0 funds and regional goals is to establish tracking systems and benchmarks and it is not to reach the (Regional Plan) regional goals during the grant term. The goal is to set aspirational goals and make adjustments based on what is working and what is not. The RPI 4.0 project goals and outcomes as outlined in the scope of work that will included in the sub-grant will need to be met.

November 13, 2020

Q: Can RPI 4.0 funds be used for the partnership building, research and development of the regional plans that are due March 2021?

A: No. The RPI 4.0 grant funds will be effective April 1, 2021, and grant activities can begin at that time.

Q: Are any funds going to be available for the Regional Training Coordinator (RTC) position moving forward?

A: RPUs have the option to include funding for a RTC position and/or allocate funds to pay for training to support professional development.

Q: Can the RO be a Regional Organizer Team?

A: The RPU needs to identify the RO staff by name and it can include more than one person.

Q: The organization, [NPOWER](#), forges pathways to tech careers for opportunity youth and veterans, and has digital literacy and career training programs in multiple Regional Planning Units. What is the best way for us to identify agencies already spearheading applications within our regions? Could you point us towards any organizations you might know are already planning to apply in the San Francisco Bay, Silicon Valley or San Diego areas? NPOWER would like to avoid duplicating efforts, but might initiate a partnership proposal if one is not already underway within key regions.

A: CWDB recommends reaching out the Local Workforce Development Board in each city you list. They will be participating in responding to the RFA. Find a list of Local Boards in California at https://cwdb.ca.gov/local_boards/local_workforce_investment_associations/

November 20, 2020

Q: Can we purchase equipment under the RPI 4.0 grant?

A: Yes, equipment can be included in the application and will be approved or denied during the review process. Procurement rules apply and there may be additional information or a State Prior Approval depending on the quantity, amount, etc.

Q: Are we allowed to purchase equipment (i.e. computers and webcams) and loan that equipment to a partner, such as a library, to help them to connect potential WIOA participants to our AJCC services? Is there a required competitive process we would need to follow in order to do that?

A: The application should include details about why you are selecting to place the equipment at the library, the purpose of this, and who will be responsible for working with participants on that end. There is no requirement to go through a competitive bid process to place the equipment at a partner agency location, if they are included in the application as part of the program for RPI 4.0.

November 25, 2020

Q: The applicant and lead fiscal agent on the Slingshot/RPI 4.0 application must be the lead agency for the RPU, is that correct?

A: The Lead Fiscal Agent/applicant is one of the three Workforce Development Boards in the RPU. The lead agency enters into a subgrant agreement with the State of CA, is the recipient of funds and acts as the administrative lead for the RPU. The region determines and assigns the lead fiscal agent and that lead fiscal agent would submit the application and be the lead for the grant.

Q: One of our engaged partners, NOVA, is the lead agency for the Bay-Peninsula Regional Planning Unit. If NOVA approves all parts of the application and NPOWER has an MOU with NOVA, is it okay for NPOWER (and me as their contractor) to support coordinating and preparing the application on their behalf?

A: NOVA is one of the three Local Boards in the Bay-Peninsula RPU. The RPUs do not have a lead agency but the regional grant applications requires that there be a Lead Fiscal Agent/applicant. NOVA acts in the administrative lead role for RPU funding on behalf of the RPU. There are no RPI 4.0 funds to cover the costs of writing the application. NOVA and Bay-Peninsula RPU would need to determine how to fund any external agencies efforts in writing the application. Yes, if you do enter an agreement with NOVA and support and preparation of the application is a part of that agreement you NPOWER can assist with those activities.

Q: Does the lead agency (NOVA) need to be the designated Regional Organizer for the project, or could NPOWER serve as the Regional Organizer for a Slingshot/RPI 4.0-funded project?

A: The RPU would need to determine who is acting in the Regional Organizer role. It does not have to be NOVA but the RPU collectively needs to decide. The regional Organizer does not need to be the lead agent and can contract with NPOWER to act as the Regional Organizer.

Q: The RFA says “Only one application may be submitted from each RPU.” The Bay-Peninsula RPU encompasses four counties with four Workforce Development Boards. Is it safe to assume that the lead agency (NOVA) would know of any other applications underway within the RPU? Or should we reach out to the other two Workforce Development Boards to be sure?

A: The Bay-Peninsula RPU is three Workforce Development Boards and they work together to draft one application as the RPU. The four local boards work together to determine and assign the lead fiscal agent, there would only be one application completed and submitted for the region.

Q: Would our Slingshot Application need to cover all four counties and engage all four Workforce Development Boards in the RPU? Or is it ok to focus the project in the two southern counties?

A: The only eligible applicants are the 15 RPUs in CA which are comprised of Workforce Development Boards. The Bay-Peninsula RPU would need to determine priorities based on their strategic planning efforts and four year Regional Plans. As of July 1, 2020, the Bay-Peninsula is now comprised of three Workforce Development Boards. The application would cover the entire region; however, the objectives and funds provided to each local board may vary.