BREAKING BARRIERS

t o   E m p l o y m e n t   I n i t i a t i v e

AB628 Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative

Q&A - Week of July 11

Q1. Are we required to use CalJOBS for participant and fiscal reporting?

A1. No, all reporting and invoicing will be completed through the Cal E-Grants portal, powered by Salesforce.

Q2. Do participants need to be eligible to work in the US?

A2. No, they do not need to have work authorization to be eligible.

Q3. Do participants need to be registered for selective service?

A3. No, this is not a requirement.

Q4. Are there standards for performance? For example, minimum number of participants served, employment rate, credential rate, etc?

A4. Performance will be measured based on the grantee's progress toward goals and outcomes stated in their proposal. Grantees will additionally be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFA. While there are no minimum requirements, the outcomes stated in the proposal should be aligned with the funding amount requested and the goals of the initiative.

Q5. If our subrecipent has staff that meets the percentage requirements for bonus points, does that count?

A5. The bonus points available for percentage requirements are based upon the lead applicant organization's makeup.

Q6. Could you please let me know whether participants who are funded by this funding stream need to be entered in Cal jobs?

A6. No, we will only be utilizing the Cal E-Grants portal for reporting purposes.

Q7. Could you tell me what the maximum award amount is for this funding opportunity?

A7. Applicants defined as **small CBOs** may request **up to $300,000** in grant funds to complete proposed grant activities. Applicants with annual **budgets exceeding $1.5M** may request **up to $750,000** in grant funds to complete grant activities.

Q8. I received notice of the AB 628 Initiative, and would like to clarify eligibility criteria. It looks like community colleges are not eligible to be applicants?

A8. Community Colleges are not eligible to serve as the lead applicant but are encouraged to be a partner to a Workforce Development Board or Community-based Organization that is applying as the lead agency.

Q9. Could you clarify whether an eligible CBO can submit multiple applications as the lead applicant? Or can an eligible CBO be the lead applicant on only one application, but also partner with other CBOs and workforce development boards on separate applications?

A9. Organizations may submit one application as a lead and may also serve as a partner on applications submitted by different organizations.

Q10. How should CBO's describe how the relationship with WDB's will be effective? Will this have any points tied to it?

A10. This can be accomplished in the Narrative section of the application. Applicants will be scored based on their ability to demonstrate collaborative working partnerships.

Q11. How can organizations serving undocumented individuals describe their services, since regular labor market outcomes are not an option? Can services like workplace training, know-your-rights training and things like that can be included, and make them competitive?

A11. Yes, these services are eligible activities under this funding. The evaluation criteria outlined in the RFA are inclusive of both labor market outcomes as well as educational

outcomes. Applicants should develop outcome goals based on their target population(s) and in alignment with the criteria stated in the RFA.

Q12. Can programs that are already underway be funded to expand?

A12. Yes, as long as the program approach and services delivered are aligned with the goals and requirements of the initiative as stated in the RFA.

Q13. If larger organizations include smaller CBO's in their proposal would that help them get points (since some of the incentive points are specifically for smaller CBO's)?

A13. The bonus points available for small CBOs are reserved for small CBOs that serve as the lead applicant. However, larger organizations are encouraged to partner with small CBOs and should include these partnerships in their applications. Applicants will be scored on their ability to demonstrate collaborative partnerships that provide services directly to the target population(s) identified.

Q&A - Week of July 18

Q14. Can you please confirm if a CBO can be in two applications, one as the lead applicant and one in which the workforce board is the lead applicant?

A14. Yes, organizations may submit one application as a lead and may also serve as a partner on applications submitted by a different organization or a workforce board that is the lead applicant.

Q15. Can two small CBOs apply for the RFP together or do we have to apply separately?

A15. You will need to select one lead applicant. Additional CBOs may be included as partners and may be subcontracted to perform work.

Q16. Do we need to send an intent to apply for the RFP?

A16. No, an intent to apply is not necessary. A completed application needs to be submitted by the deadline, which is **Friday, September 2, 2022, by 5:00pm PT**

Q17. When you state that we need to collaborate with the Workforce Development Board, does that include the WIOA Youth Providers that are managed by the Workforce Development Board or the AJCC?

A17. The collaboration must be directly with a Workforce Development Board and its programs. Additional partners, including third-party providers, may also be a part of the collaboration.

Q18. What is the Foundation for California Community Colleges' definition of a community-based organization?

A18. According to 20 USC § 7801(5), the term "community-based organization" means a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that— (A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and (B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community. The Foundation for California Colleges does require proof of 501c3 status.

Q19. Partnership with small CBOs with annual budgets of less than $1.5M is emphasized, but there's no clear definition of a CBO as the lead agency. What is the definition of a CBO?

A19. According to 20 USC § 7801(5), the term "community-based organization" means a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that— (A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and (B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community. The Foundation for California Colleges does require proof of 501c3 status.

Q20. Other than specific diversity requirements listed under bonus points, are there other restrictions or selection priorities that would make an application from a U.S.-based refugee resettlement agency, such as the IRC, ineligible or less competitive?

A20. All CBOs with proof of 501c3 status and Local Workforce Development Boards in California with experience in providing services consistent with the objectives of this initiative and the populations specified are invited to apply. The selection committee will seek to award a diverse pool of applicants based on a ranking of application scores in combination with factors such as geographic distribution of funds, reasonableness of funding request, representation of organizations by size, populations served, etc.

Q21. Will there be LoS templates that both CBOs and LWDBs can use when they want to partner with one another on a project proposal?

A21. There is not a Letter of Support (LoS)template for this initiative.

Q22. What is a reasonable cost per participant served for the Breaking Barriers Initiative?

A22. There is not a specified cost per participant specific to Breaking Barriers. For guidance, CWDB uses a cost per of $12,000 for similarly funded programs. Funding amounts requested should be reasonable and aligned with the applicant's goals and deliverables.

Q23. What was the cost per range for the AB 1111 Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative?

A23. CWDB uses a cost per participant of $12,000 for similarly funded programs.

Q24. Does the proposed project need to be brand new, or can it represent the continuation of an innovative and proven pilot that serves the purposes of AB 628?

A24. No, the proposed project can be an established initiative that has proven to address racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the labor market.

Q25. Can a project that includes the expansion of an existing program also include some funding for the existing program?

A25. Grants funds must be used for the proposed project outlined in the application. Funds may support an existing program that is implementing innovative approaches to and proven practices for addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the labor market as aligned with the goals of the initiative.

Q26. For the partner letters, who should they be addressed to? Someone at CWDB or FoundationCCC?

A26. Letters of Support may be addressed to the Breaking Barriers Solicitation Team at the Foundation for California Community Colleges.