



Educational Attainment & Work Readiness Initiative

Bidders' Conference Q&A

July 31, 2009

3:00 PM – 3:40 PM

@ GNBWIB Conference Room

1. New Directions Southcoast, Inc.' President, Ed Dennehy, supplied attendees and applicants with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Please find the MOA under the attachments section of the RFP on the WIB's website. This MOA has some important information on WIA eligibility and program recruitment. Don't wait till the last minute to read this through.
2. In regard to the ESOL classes, will we define what we mean by "intermediate/high level?" A score of 5-10 on the BEST Plus test will qualify a participant as intermediate/high level.
3. The RFP sites the ESOL test to be used as BEST. What about B EST Plus? That is also an acceptable test.
4. Is Key Train an acceptable test in place of TABE? Yes.

5. Explain the distinction between the Work Readiness Credential and the Certificate. The Certificate is for completing a work readiness class. This component of the program does not necessarily have to run the entire 10 months. The Credential is either the nationally recognized Work Certified™ credential or the National Work Readiness Credential (NWRC). The participant must pass an exam to receive these credentials.
6. In the ESOL classes, must participants take the test to try for a credential? No. That will be left to the discretion of the instructor.
7. What outcomes are you expecting for grantees achieve in order to receive the last 10% of funds, based on performance? To receive the last 10% of contract funds grantees must demonstrate 80% of participants showing an increase in educational attainment from pre-test to post-test.
8. For those participants receiving unemployment benefits, does the program I run need to be Section 30 approved for them to participate and continue receiving unemployment benefits? Yes, it does. It is uncertain how long this process may take (it varies). Best to apply early. The WIB and Career Center will assist in this process.
9. For the GED class and the Work Certified portion, what is the latitude in running Work Certified up front and then doing an alternative work readiness program for subsequent participants? That is fine.
10. Open enrollment will create a problem in outcomes if there is absolutely no cut-off point for new participants. Can we close enrollment at some point? Yes, explain when and why in your application narrative.
11. Some questions in the Outcomes chart seem impossible to answer with any certainty prior to the completion of my program. How should I fill in the Outcomes chart for my application? Just specify why you feel you cannot project the outcome.
12. Make sure to explain why you are offering your program at certain days and times. We are looking for flexibility for participants with difficult schedules, such as trying to manage a full-time job and a family and go to class.

More questions? E-mail Bridget Alexander at balexander@gnbwib.org.