

RFP Questions and Answers submitted via email as of March 16, 2018

1. On the charts for each section, do they expect that providers respond to each one? As series of short answers vs. integrated in narrative? For example, bulleted answers or in narrative?
 - a. Answer: Each criteria should be addressed, either in short answers or integrated. Pay particular attention to the language in the "Instructions," quoting WIOA considerations, in narrative responses.
2. Does consortium mean two or more agencies, or can it be an agency plus other programs, employers? What are all of the specific characteristics that "qualify" as a consortium?
 - a. Each agency within a consortium must contribute to the grant's priorities. Each agency must provide one or more of the adult education activities and services. Each agency within a consortium must be an eligible agency according to statute. Employers are encouraged to form partnerships with agencies. Different programs that are under the same agency do not constitute a consortium (e.g., Adult Education and CTE in the same school district; or different programs functioning under one CAP agency).
3. Does working with multiple partners, having classes/services in those multiple locations but coordinating services - including hiring staff and handling money/grant (no funds to partners) through the lead agency count as a consortium?
 - a. When one agency has multiple satellite sites, then that is not a consortium. To be considered a member of a consortium, each agency must be providing activities and services to contribute to the completion of the grant's priorities.
4. There is no specific language about Transitions to College. Services for adults with HSE who are lacking skills are not included in Competitive Priorities. Is TTC being phased out?
 - a. There are several references in the RFP to transitioning students to postsecondary education. Each GED Plus program should have transition activities in place, but there will be no statewide TTC coordinator. Programs may consider RI Best planning or implementation as a method to transition students to postsecondary.
5. Does RFP allow for provision of PowerPath services to whole state as Goodwill does currently?
 - a. Under the new RFP, all programs seeking funding must submit a full application. All Learning Disability (LD) related screening and training will be facilitated by the statewide LD Advisory Committee. Recommendations from that committee will be forthcoming during the program year.
6. Can RIDE funding pay for instruction for Spanish-language version of GED?

- a. Federal funding may not be used for Spanish language instruction, and state funding that is used to match the federal funding must follow the federal regulations.
7. If we apply to more than one priority, then is it multiple applications? Or one application? What if an agency plans to partner for some priorities and not others?
 - a. Programs should submit just one application even if there are multiple priorities. In this case, Narrative Responses need to be aligned with all priorities chosen. An agency within a consortium can focus on one priority but it will be the responsibility of the consortium as a whole to achieve the outcomes of all priorities chosen.
8. On page 5, it says that money will be divided equally across funding priorities. Does this mean the plan is to divide funding equally among the Competitive Priorities? It doesn't seem like demand for all priorities is equal (only 7% of adult learner population last year was at ASE level).
 - a. Page 8 states that RIDE anticipates that funding will be evenly distributed across priorities. The intent of this statement is that no one priority is more important than another. The funding will depend on overall proposal quality of the applications received and funding availability.
9. What does a partnership with an employer look like?
 - a. A partnership must involve the employer offering one of the activities and services of adult education, for example workplace education or training, internships, apprenticeships or employment. The Interagency Letter of Agreement (Appendix I) must explain the responsibilities of all agencies in a partnership or consortium.
10. Can you be lead agency in one consortium and a partner on another?
 - a. No, this is not possible to be a lead agency in one consortium and a member in another consortium. RIDE does believe that one agency might be a consortium member in multiple consortia – but in this case, not functioning as the lead agency in any of them. The Interagency Letters of Agreement must spell out the agency's role in each consortium.
11. Do MOUs need to be included with grant?
 - a. MOUs are not required documents. The RFP requires Interagency Letters of Agreement for agencies within a consortium.
12. What is the plan for PD? Who will do PD Coordination?

- a. Appendix K provides information about professional development in the future. Competitive grants to support this work will be forthcoming, after the grant awards have been made as part of the RFP.
13. Can RIDE money be used to pay for training programs?
- a. Yes, as part of an Integrated Education and Training program; however, with limited adult education funding, it is preferable to seek other funding sources to support training.
14. Regarding WIB alignment, is there more concrete information that can be provided regarding strategy and goals of local plans, other than all info at link to plan, which is very long?
- a. Refer to Consideration #4, Alignment with the Local Workforce Plan, and Consideration #1, Regional Need.
15. For evidence of partnership with One-Stops, will RIDE provide system-wide MOU with One-Stops to all programs?
- a. RIDE has an MOU with the two Local Workforce Development Boards to provide adult education activities and services in the One-Stops. Individual programs need to show how and in what ways they partner with their local One-Stop Center.
16. Will allocation/priority area be proportionate to need? Or divided evenly among priority areas?
- a. Allocations will be based on the number and quality of proposals received. See Question #8 above.
17. Can RIDE provide a checklist of documentation required? By priority area? Master checklist with additions by priority area?
- a. Considerations have required documentation, but priority areas do not. Narrative Responses should align with the priority areas chosen.
18. Can programs share one FTE staff, lead agency manage f/t staff person to be shared?
- a. Programs within a consortium can share staff, and the lead agency is responsible for fiscal and personnel management.
19. Will RI-BEST programming be open to high school students in the K-12 system?
- a. This is not relevant unless it is referring to students on Alternative Learning Plans who are studying in adult education programs. If the ALP students are at the appropriate level, then it is acceptable for them to be in the RI-BEST program.

20. Will cost/student calculation include only RIDE funding, or will value of cash and in-kind match be included in calculation?
- a. The cost per student includes only RIDE funding, and does not include matching funds or other sources of funding.
21. Based on experience with first year of consortia formation, can you share what cost efficiencies applicants planning to form a consortium can budget for in proposals?
- a. There is a cost efficiency in administration: When two agencies come together, the lead agency director assumes the overall fiscal, legal, personnel, and operational responsibilities for both agencies; therefore, the second program director will either have fewer hours of work or will assume different responsibilities that other staff were performing. Fiscal efficiencies may include sharing a Professional Learning Specialist, a counselor or case manager or other efficiencies as determined by the consortium when developing their grant response.
22. Project Opportunity description (page 58) says that it can be used to serve former TANF recipients. What does this mean?
- a. It is possible that former TANF clients may take advantage of Project Opportunity; however, all Project Opportunity clients must be referred to adult education by a DHS case manager.