

Supplemental Information Request Response

1. In the third paragraph on the first page of the recently released RFQ, under "About the Central Ohio Workforce Development Network," it refers to the WDN as being "a pillar of Aspyr's strategic plan." Is there a way we can access Aspyr's full strategic plan so we can see how the WDN fits into the broader approach?

<https://aspyrworkforce.org/news-resources-2/strategic-plan/>

2. What do we need to know about your timeline for the completion of the project? Do you need the strategic plan by a certain date?

The goal of membership is to have a final draft approved by our steering committee by 12/15/24. Full membership approval will occur during our 1/9/25 meeting. The release of the strategic plan will be in conjunction with our annual report by the end of January 2025.

3. The RFQ mentions the WDN's thirteen member organizations, and we see them listed on your website. Does the network intend to broaden this membership?

There is a desire to expand membership beyond the initial 13 organizations. The development of the strategic plan should provide clarity on how this expansion should occur.

4. When was the WDN formed?

The Central Ohio WDN membership signed the initial operational agreements in late 2023. Before this operational agreement, members worked to determine an initial operating structure and focus as a volunteer group.

5. Has the WDN Strategic Plan work group already been formed? Who is represented on the work group?

The WDN Strategic Plan work group will be formed in the upcoming weeks as we review proposals and finalize the agreement with the selected organization. The work group will be comprised of 3-4 member organizations and Aspyr staff.

6. Has the WDN been through any previous planning processes? Is there a current or past strategic plan?

Yes, the Central Ohio WDN has completed the formal strategic planning during 2019 with an initial strategic plan created in early 2020. This plan was developed as the Workforce Advisory Council and led to the transition to a formalized and operational

network. The selected organization will be provided with a copy of the previous strategic plan as part of the onboarding process.

7. Does the WDN have bylaws, governing board members, and/or advisors?

The Central Ohio WDN currently has an Infrastructure work group that is working to focus on operational procedures, governance, and membership.

8. What is the employee structure of the WDN? How many employees are dedicated to the work of the WDN?

The Central Ohio WDN currently has one dedicated employee. The newly hired Director is responsible for the day-to-day, strategic, and operational activities of the WDN.

9. Will preference be given to small, woman, or minority owned businesses?

Scoring of submissions will include additional points awarded for small, woman, or minority owned businesses.

10. Do you expect community engagement to happen in person, virtually, or a combination?

Community engagement with various stakeholders should be conducted in the most effective method possible. The method and tools used may vary depending on the audience.

11. Will Aspyr and/or the WDN be available to support engagement activities e.g., contacts, scheduling, venues?

The Director of the Central Ohio WDN and other Aspyr staff may be available to assist as needed with scheduling and supporting engagement activities. All aspects of the engagement activities will be the primary responsibility of the vendor.

12. Is the work of the WDN collaborative funded with WIOA dollars?

The work of the WDN is funded through a blended model of funding supported by membership organizations, philanthropic organizations, and various other community partners. WIOA funding, specifically, is not utilized for the work of the WDN.

13. How many facilitated group meetings to you expect to take place with the work group?

The number of facilitated group meetings will be determined by the recommendation of the vendor on how to best engage stakeholders from the following audiences: residents, employers/industry, and community partners.

14. Do you envision a working session with a broader group of leaders and staff?

Working sessions will be focused on the Strategic Plan work group. Larger sessions will be focused on presenting the strategic plan for approval.

15. Are there existing dates for Aspyr board and/or WDN leadership convening that we could consider as we develop a plan and timeline for leadership engagement?

We currently have standing bi-monthly full membership meetings. The meeting on October 3rd could be used if necessary.

16. What is the funding source for this planning project?

This project is being supported by a philanthropic investment from a local business.

17. What is the total project budget?

We have not identified a specific budget expectation. Within our proposal review, we will determine which proposal is cost effective while delivering the best product.

18. What does the Central Ohio Workforce Development Network hope that this visioning and planning process will lead to? (asked a different way – what does the Network hope to be able to have and do as a result of this process?)

The desired outcomes include an effective strategic plan that identifies our pillars of focus developed through input from all relevant stakeholder groups. The pillars will be utilized to develop goals, strategies, and metrics that will allow us to measure our effectiveness and ability to impact our community.

19. What are the main stakeholders to consider in this scope and what is their role and expected level of engagement? From the RFP, the following stakeholders are mentioned:

- a. Central Ohio WDN Strategic Plan work group
- b. The Central Ohio WDN 13 member organizations
- c. Aspyr 13-person staff
- d. Aspyr's 27-member Board
- e. Aspyr's contracted service providers (Equus Workforce Solutions, Goodwill Columbus and the Columbus Urban League)
- f. Community organizations
- g. Residents

The level of engagement with each stakeholder group will vary based on the desired input of the group. In many instances, facilitated group conversations and individual

interviews may be effective. In others, it may be other tools and techniques that are deployed to get results. There may also be the need to layer in additional stakeholder groups as the work evolves.

20. Does Aspyr have any preference for whether this work is all-remote, all in-person, or hybrid?

There is no preference on the approach taken. The focus will be on the ability of the selected vendor to provide a high-quality product that will support the efforts of the Central Ohio WDN as we grow and launch initiatives within the community.