

## **FAQ – Career 500**

**12/23/2024**

**NOTE: Duplicate questions were only answered once.**

**The period for questions is now closed.**

**1. What if you are a training provider with a fully career services curriculum and support program?**

Eligible organizations that meet the criteria listed in the NOFA may apply- either the organization is a current member of the Central Ohio Workforce Development Network or the organization is a CBO based in Columbus with a budget of \$5 M or less. The organization must provide career services and may provide training.

**2. Is a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor acceptable?**

Having a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor as a way to meet the eligibility requirements listed in question 1 is not acceptable.

**3. Do you know approximately how many grantees will be selected?**

The number of grantees selected will be determined by the request for funds in each category by the top scoring proposals. It is expected the number will be somewhere between 3 and 6.

**4. Will Aspyr be continuing other programs outside of this particular grant? So if you've been working with Aspyr under a different funding program, will those programs continue? Or is Aspyr changing into this model completely?**

This grant program stands on its own based on a partnership between Aspyr and Columbus City Council.

**5. Pay for performance Question – Will 70% be received up front with the requirement to submit quarterly reports? Or the first 70% spread across the first few quarters?**

How grant funds flow to the grantees will be negotiated with each grantee based on the particulars of each program.

**6. Is there an avenue to connect 501c(3) applicants with education providers so that they apply together?**

No. This grant program is for successful programs that are already operating and could expand outcomes with the grant. It is not for new programs established for purposes of applying for this grant.

**7. Can 501c3 status be new even if the program is not?**

The 501(c)3 must be fully in place at the time of application.

**8. Is the salary self-reported or must clients provide pay stubs etc.?**

The organization must be able to provide information on wages and be able to verify.

- 9. In the application, there is a budget breakdown and narrative incorporated in the application (Section IV. Budget) but there is also “budget narrative and breakdown” is listed in the attachment checklist. Do we need to complete the application and then also attach a separate budget narrative and breakdown? If so, is there a template we should be using?**

The budget narrative and breakdown should be completed in the application. If further information needs to be included, it should be included as an attachment, but it is not required. There is no template for additional information.

- 10. Sorry if I missed this- can an organization submit for 2 programs under one application?**

No, one program per application.

- 11. Is the funding for one year? so we would report 6 times over the year, then one more report 6 months later?**

Grant agreements will be for 18 months.

- 12. Can you help us understand why bimonthly reporting to CETE and quarterly performance reports? That seems misaligned.**

Reporting to CETE is for purposes of evaluating the program. Quarterly performance reports will be focused on financial information and basic outcomes.

- 13. If our program offers comprehensive support including housing, childcare etc. as well as paid performance mentoring during job placement. We are adding a classroom component. We can only service 10-15 people a year because of the intensity of the program. Are we too small to apply?**

No.

- 14. When is funding released, if we receive a grant?**

When the grant agreement is fully executed between Aspyr and the grantee, funds may be released based on the conditions specified in the grant.

- 15. Can we assume that if your program is a formal part of the Central Ohio Workforce Development Network, you would know?**

The Central Ohio Development Network is a collective impact membership organization. Both the applicant and Aspyr know if that organization is a member.

- 16. When will funds be dispersed?**

Please see the answer to question #14.

**17. Who is on the scoring committee and what is the scoring evaluation?**

The scoring committee is composed of Aspyr staff, staff from Columbus City Council, and CETE. The scoring document is based on the NOFA. Threshold requirements must be met in order for the application to be reviewed. Points will be awarded based on meeting/exceeding the requirements of the application. Per the NOFA:

Rating Criterion

The following criterion will be used to rate applications:

- Program Characteristics: Description, length of time in operation, current funding, and staffing
- Evidence-based backing for program design
- Description of current program evaluation method(s) and citations for these methods, if applicable
- Current success rates: # participants, % employed, industry sectors, wage in first 12 months after exit, wage gain from entrance to exit
- Strategy for recruiting and supporting participants
- Projected capacity increase—With this requested funding, how many additional Columbus residents will be served?
- Specific, clear, and reasonable Budget for proposed program
- Applicant’s track record of fiscal responsibility and stewardship.
- Applicant’s strategy for engaging new and existing employers and employer groups for participant placement

**18. We are in workforce development, and we provide ESL services... we also offer case management to families seeking a job, better paying job OR job that aligns with their skills/degrees that may not transfer to the US..... if we don’t do direct work placement we are not eligible?**

The outcome for this grant is employment. If you can report on your participants’ Employment, you are eligible.

**19. What if we may not have the staff capacity to do bi-monthly and quarterly reports — can we use some of the grant funding to hire an additional staff member or pay a portion of a new staff member’s salary to help with reporting? or will this be looked at negatively in the application?**

Reporting will not require an FTE. The organization should submit a budget for what it needs to expand its capacity, and it will be evaluated as part of the application.

**20. I have read the information available for this grant a couple of times and I believe it says applicants must be a 501c3 and in good standing with the IRS and registered with the Ohio Secretary of State. Is that correct?**

Yes.

**21. We are interested in applying for the Career 500 grant. Given our status as a state-registered vendor and our experience serving Ohio residents independently, we seek clarification on our eligibility for this grant.**

This grant is meant for Community Based Organizations, usually referred to as nonprofits. Vendors are not eligible.

**22. We are a small non-profit that is not required to complete audits in accordance with the OBM guidelines. This is because we do not receive funding in excess of \$750,000 or the new threshold of 1 million. We have completed audits with our grant issuing partners and are happy to provide that information as proof of audit. Would that be acceptable? or is there a different option available to us?**

We will accept the most recent audit as well as compiled current financial statements.

**23. We currently get students from WIOA. Is this program in addition to the funding from WIOA. If so can we do both.**

This program is not meant to expand programs funded with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. If this organization is a training vendor, it is not an eligible applicant.

**24. For example, does an organization need to submit current employment status for 2021 program participants?**

The application asks for employment data for participants from 2021 on. If your program has not been operating that long or that data was not collected, provide the information that the organization has available. At a minimum, information should be provided for the last 12 months.

**25. On the ASPYR website and grant outline, it states to submit the application to [rfp-proposal@aspyrworkforce.org](mailto:rfp-proposal@aspyrworkforce.org) while the application itself states to submit it to [Career500@aspyrworkforce.org](mailto:Career500@aspyrworkforce.org).**

The correct address is in [Career500@aspyrworkforce.org](mailto:Career500@aspyrworkforce.org)

**26. Our workforce development program includes residential programming for some of our participants, particularly those most difficult to employ. Would a portion of those housing costs be an allowable expense?**

Supportive services such as housing costs are an allowable expense if it can be shown that those expenditures will expand capacity and help meet the requirements of the grant funding.

**27. What documentation will be required if the supportive service of childcare is paid for by this grant?**

Expenditures will be documented by copies of invoices/bills paid for the service.

