

Request for Qualifications Partners to Boston and Metro North Application for Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Funds

Overview

Through this Request for Qualifications, the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development/Economic Development Industrial Corporation (OWD/EDIC) are seeking partners to develop a proposal for the Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) awarded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). Since 2015, the MGC has offered this grant to help advance the workforce development needs of communities in the vicinity of Encore Boston Harbor. For more information, please visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>.

Our agencies anticipate jointly developing an application for funding along with selected partners to support hospitality-related skills training programming. There is no guarantee of funding availability or award. We are looking for partners who will provide services to residents of our region¹ to advance the following goals:

Goals include:

- To mitigate a strain in existing resources and a potential impact to the regional labor market.
- To identify and alleviate gaps and/or challenges regarding equitable access to casino or industry-related jobs.
- To deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations related to the casino.
- To help low-skilled adults earn occupational credentials, obtain well-paying jobs, and sustain rewarding careers in sectors related to hospitality and casino careers.
- To increase access to quality jobs for residents from historically underserved communities
- To get students with low basic skills into for-credit career and technical education courses to improve their educational and employment outcomes.
- To align and accelerate ABE, GED/HiSET, and developmental programs and provide nontraditional students the support they need to complete postsecondary credentials of value in the regional labor market.

¹ Specifically the following cities and towns: Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, Medford, Everett, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Malden, Melrose, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Woburn, Burlington, Wilmington, North Reading, and Reading.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- A program that structures intentional connections among adult basic education, occupational training, and post-secondary education programs designed to meet the needs of both adult learners and employers;
- Post-secondary vocational programs;
- Registered apprenticeship programs;
- Courses leading to college credits or industry-recognized certificates;
- Adult Basic Education (“ABE”) and vocationally based English for Speakers of Other Languages (“ESOL”) training programs with contextualized learning;
- Integrated Education & Training leading to industry-recognized credentials.

Proposals may include programming elements such as culinary skills, hospitality skills, banking, or general customer service training.

Eligibility

Eligible programs must hold 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code, be in the process of receiving such status, or have an identified fiscal sponsor holding 501(c)(3) status. Non-profit, private or public institutions of higher education are also eligible to propose services.

Availability of Funds: We anticipate selecting multiple partners for inclusion in a final proposal. Funding of up to \$500,000 will be available to support projects. All funding is contingent upon the successful submission of a grant proposal to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

Requested Information - Narrative

Please answer the following questions. Limit your responses to no more than 2 type-written pages. Responses should be based on a one-year program, with a tentative anticipated start date of Summer 2023.

1. Identify the name of your organization and the name of the proposed program, along with contact information for the program (staff person name, title, email and phone numbers). Identify the cities and towns where you intend to provide services.
2. Identify the activities you are targeting. Include a description of the individuals you intend to serve, the location of any training program, and your key partners if any.
3. Describe your program design. Distinguish between what components exist and/or are currently funded, and how new funding would be used.
4. Describe the career pathway and how education and training programming is available to participants to move them along that pathway. Describe any programs in your career pathway that lead to an industry-recognized certificate. Describe how your proposed program is related to the gaming industry.
5. Identify the total costs of the program, including tuition and mandatory fees. Note any costs associated with certificate or other testing. Note the cost per participant.

6. If selected for inclusion, will your organization make available a staff member who can collaborate with our agencies to finalize our application during January 2023? Please provide contact information for this individual.

Submission Instructions - Please submit responses with narratives no longer than 2 pages. Please submit narratives in one-inch margin, 12 point fonts, and single spaced. Responses are due by email no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, December 5, 2022.

Please email responses to: rfp@masshiremetronorth.org - any questions regarding this RFQ can also be directed to the same email addresses. There will be no bidder's conference.