

Can the State Funds be used to support individuals that are not authorized to work in the United States (undocumented workers)?

Programs that provide direct services to participants must include an assessment of the participant's workforce needs. This assessment should be the basis for determining services suitable for the participant. Providing services to undocumented workers may be allowed under this grant based on the assessment of the participant's needs and project outcomes.

- For many undocumented workers, providing career and supportive services that support employment and career pathway goals may be appropriate.
- For some undocumented workers, it may be suitable to provide training services when participants have filed an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)/I-765 or U.S. Citizenship Application (USCIS Naturalization Form N-400), depending on where they are in the process.
- For some undocumented workers, providing training services may not be a suitable and appropriate use of these grant funds as grantees and employers must follow all applicable federal and state labor laws regarding the placement of workers in jobs. In this case, referring the worker to other programs that provide training services to undocumented workers may be appropriate.

Note: Participants do not need to meet the WIOA eligibility criteria for the career, training and supportive services. The reference to these services is provided to help explain the response.

Can the State Funds be used to support a youth project for participants under the WIOA age range?

Yes, as long as the Federal and State labor laws are followed (see <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/youthlabor>).

Can the State Funds be used to support employers and workers in the legal gambling industry in Illinois?

Yes

Can the State Funds be used to support employers and workers in the legal cannabis industry in Illinois?

Yes, the state funds may be used to provide services in the cannabis industry, however, LWIAs must "wall off" any federal programs from the state-funded cannabis-related activity. Specifically, no federally-supported resources may support the provision of services in the cannabis industry. LWIAs are advised to follow local fiscal management procedures that clearly document the administration, case management, training and supportive services that are paid by the state grant funds for activities that are not allowable under the federal workforce grants. LWIAs that request funds to support the cannabis industry must clearly document this in the grant application.

Can the State funds and the WIOA funds be "braided" to provide services to job seekers and employers? Braiding occurs when multiple funding streams, separately and simultaneously, provide specific services that support job-seekers or employers while retaining the ability to track and account for funds separately. Because braiding involves simultaneous service delivery by two or more funding streams, it will require that the participants (job-seekers or employers) meet the eligibility and reporting requirements of the two or more funding streams involved. Note that the braiding of federal funds for projects that support the cannabis industry is not allowed.

Are staff costs allowed under this application?

Yes. Staff costs may be included as program or administrative costs depending on the activities performed as a part of the grant. Note that the administrative costs (staff and non-staff costs) should generally be limited to 10 percent (10%), or less, of direct costs.

How long will it take to be reimbursed once a cash request is submitted?

It is anticipated that a cash request will take 2-4 weeks to be processed from the time of the cash request to the time the cash is deposited into a grantee's account.

Does all money need to be spent by 6/30/24 too? No time extensions?

Yes, all costs need to be incurred by 6/30/24. Pre-award costs will be allowed going back to 7/1/23.

Can LWIAs submit applications that include more than one (1) initiative?

Yes.

If the clients do not have to be WIOA eligible, does this mean they won't go into performance?

Correct – as long as the participants are not co-enrolled in WIOA.

What will monitors be looking for in annual monitoring?

Monitors will perform a fiscal and program review of the project focused on the scope of work of the project.

Do we need to have basic documents for program participants?

Although the WIOA application and eligibility documentation are not required, the state expects the LWIAs to utilize best practices to develop document/application templates to support the recruitment, assessment, enrollment, case management and follow-up for participants enrolled in the program.

What information will need to be reported to DCEO?

DCEO will provide specific information and instructions regarding the reporting of the job-seeker and employer services/activities and outcomes as the grant applications are reviewed and approved.

- It is anticipated that LWIAs will be requested to report aggregate demographic data of the program participants as part of the quarterly and final grant reports.
- It is anticipated that LWIAs will be requested to report on the aggregate participant service/activity levels and the associated outcomes.
- It is anticipated that LWIA will be requested to report aggregate information regarding the employers served with these grant funds, including key activities and outcome measures.

Will DCEO have a "system" to report grant activity?

DCEO is working with Illinois workNet regarding the use of Illinois workNet to track the project, participant and employer services. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.