

EXTENDED Invitation to Negotiate

School Coordinated Youth Services -

Background

Workforce Connection's Youth Committee is seeking specific ideas that focus on key youth initiatives directed at youth who are in-school. Rather than establishing separate, distinct efforts, Workforce Connection, realizing that youth funding is limited, desires to pursue projects that are fully coordinated with each school district. The projects should fit within that respective school district's plans and focus on collaborative funding between Workforce, the school district and any other project partner(s). Collaborative funding may be through in-kind services or use of existing revenue to jointly accomplish the project. For those concepts that call on external partners, Workforce will work with the school district, if requested, in gaining external partner support.

Because of the nature of the solicitation, responses should be centered around project concepts that fall into one of the general theme areas listed. Full projects and budgets, if separate funding is required, will be negotiated for those project concepts selected.

Project Concept Themes

Our workforce region, like others, faces a number of challenges in preparing a youth element of its talent supply system. These include low educational achievement beyond high school; disconnects between school graduates and jobs; low pursuit of STEM education and STEM jobs.

In consideration of these concerns, Workforce has looked at the following:

- Support of school efforts in STEM:
 - “Spring break” or Summer activities to introduce STEM in practical situations to youth;
 - Projects such as “robotics competitions” where teams are developed with industry partners (other practical “hands on” projects that expose youth to STEM accepted)
 - Teacher externships or curriculum integration projects
 - Other school priorities in STEM accepted
- Preparing and Connecting Youth for Work.

- Transitional projects which prepare or connect to high school graduates to work:
 - Use of mobile one stop to outreach in specific schools.
 - Specific school partnerships that use “career labs”, or workshops such as Monster’s “Making it Count” series.
 - Targeting one stop staff to support school counseling efforts.
- Projects that connect youth to jobs through the use of OJT.
- Other project concepts that relate to this effort.
- Collaboration to support high school graduation and advance higher education opportunities.
 - Partnerships with school educational foundations or other financial aid efforts to target WIA and/or TANF eligible seniors (students may be chosen earlier than their senior year) for two year “scholarships in career education programs.
 - Other project concepts related to this effort.
- The target groups considered for these projects are middle and high school youth.

The responses may include more than one theme and may include more than one project per theme. Final selection is dependent on budget. Concepts submitted may be used to seek special grants from other sources or in response to grant solicitations. School districts may use Workforce partnership in any grant opportunities available to them for additional funding.

Educational focus of projects that target current or future business-driven talent needs will be prioritized.

Required Submission:

Educational partners are eligible to submit concepts. Non-educational entities must partner with an educational partner.

Responses should outline the concept and include a brief budgetary summary (if known at this time). Approved concepts will have detailed budgets developed.

Participation by the educational partner and/or collaborator in either cash or in-kind support is required. In-kind can be staff time, facilities or any other support that will enable the project to be successful.

Total submission should not exceed 15 pages, Arial, 12 point type. One hard copy and an electronic copy are required.

Submission Due Date Extension:

All responses are due by close of business, **January 27, 2012** and should be submitted to:

Valene Hinson
Workforce Connection
Enterprise Center
3003 SW College Rd, Suite 205
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 873-7939, ext 1203/FAX (352) 873-7911
vhinson@clmworkforce.com

Workforce Connection shall have the right to terminate this agreement if it fails to receive funding appropriate to continue operation. In such event, Workforce shall give 60 days advance notice of intent to do so, or, if funding is not established in time to allow such, then such shorter period of notice as is possible, provided, however, that notice in no event shall be less than 30 days. Workforce reserves the right to make no award on this RFP, if most advantageous to Workforce.

Parties wishing to protest the recommendations of the Executive Committee should file a written protest within three business days of the committee's action. Such protest should include the basis of the protest and any other pertinent materials which the party wishes to have considered as justification for its protest.

Letters of protest should be addressed to:

Suzanne Mills, Chairman
Workforce Connection
Enterprise Center
3003 SW College Rd, Suite 205
Ocala, FL 34474

Upon receipt of a protest, the Chairman will convene a meeting of the Executive Committee. All parties involved in the protest will be notified of the protest and

the time and place of the hearing of the protest by the Executive Committee. Any affected party may present, in writing, a response to the protest for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Workforce is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.