Denver Workforce Services
Pandemic Response Request for Proposal Overview
OUR APPROACH

Build Access and a Stronger Service Philosophy

Focus on Strengths-Based Approach

Consider Employer as Customer; Jobseeker as Talent Product

Leverage City and Contractor Resources

Provide Direct Job Pipeline to Public Projects

Ensure Economic Mobility for Underserved Populations & Neighborhoods

Focus on Quality Jobs & Middle-Skill Sectors

Identify Long-term Career Pathways in Key Industries

Focus on Displaced, Unemployed & Underemployed Workers

Building a strong workforce in the City & County of Denver
Denver Workforce Services assists employers to **hire**, **train**, and **retain** a quality workforce while providing jobseekers the ability to **access**, **explore**, **prepare**, **learn**, and **connect** to employment, training, and workforce development opportunities.

WHO + WHERE

OPERATION OF THREE WORKFORCE CENTERS

Workforce Center at Westside - 1200 Federal Blvd.
Workforce Center at Montbello – 4685 Peoria St.
Workforce Center at DEN – 8500 Pena Blvd., Main Terminal

DENVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

DENVER WORKFORCE INTEGRATION NETWORK (DWIN)

DWIN serves as an interconnected network of community partners who are committed to empowering Denver residents through meeting their educational and employment needs.

FUNDED PARTNERS

Eckerd Connects, Denver Public Schools, Volunteers of America, CommunityWorks, Center for Employment Opportunities, Urban Peak, Ability Connection Colorado, NEST Partners
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Increase access to and impact of business and workforce services to improve the economic mobility for Denver residents

• Continued development and delivery of virtual services designed to assist in the COVID-19 recovery

• Expand and enhance programs and services that provide youth access to quality education, training and jobs, aligning summer programs with year-round support

• Expand and enhance DEN service offerings including the launch of the Gateway Training Program

• Expand and enhance program and service delivery options for priority populations Improve contractor/vendor support to increase successful outcomes and offer additional support to other agency-funded employment and training programs
STRENGTHEN ALIGNMENT BETWEEN BUSINESS NEEDS AND COMMUNITY ASSETS TO ENSURE DENVER HAS A PRODUCTIVE, EDUCATED, COMPETITIVE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE WORKFORCE

• Implement Good Jobs Strategy while incorporating programs and initiatives to support the Future of Work

• Expand the Denver Construction Careers Program to track and support workforce development on selected city projects

• Develop key city partnership/project pipeline and coordinate with WORKNOW for talent development and placement

• Leverage employer partnerships to expand work-based learning, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities

• Secure additional funding to invest in local providers and priority populations
ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Region
- Denver
- MSA
- National

Most Recent Available Data: February 2021

Monthly Unemployment Rate (2010-Current)
- Denver
- MSA
- National

Denver Unemployment Rate
- 7.60
- unemployment rate

MSA Unemployment Rate
- 7.00
- unemployment rate

National Unemployment Rate
- 6.60
- unemployment rate
Weekly UI Claims by Industry (2018–Present)

N/A: Claims that don’t have a valid NACIS code or are missing it. Included to show volume of need, but these claims need to re-apply with correct NAICS.
The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to support agencies with adapting and responding to our region’s workforce development needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for proposals that advance:

• Programs and services designed to **reskill individuals displaced from COVID-19** affected jobs into **career pathways in high growth industries and in-demand occupations**

• Programs and services designed to improve **digital literacy** and reskill displaced and/or unemployed workers into **middle-skill, middle-high wage occupations** Wrap-around supports that remove barriers to making progress on employment and career goals

• Programs and services aimed at placing Denver residents from **priority populations** on a continuum of **quality** education, training, workforce development, and economic security programs.

• Programs and services offering employment in a job along a career pathway, education/training, and **economic security** as a continuum with an integrated approach, where individuals can take advantage of **multiple services** to help them become economically **self-sufficient**
The intent of this grant is to serve individuals who have been adversely and disproportionately affected by COVID-19 which include, but are not limited to individuals experiencing the following conditions;

- Low-income
- Unemployment related to COVID
- Disability
- Residing in one of DEDO’s targeted neighborhoods
- Receiving public assistance
- Veterans
- Experiencing Homelessness
- Basic skills deficient
- Justice involved
- Other significant barriers to employment
• DEDO will be using funds from Federal Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV)

• DEDO may award funding to one or more entities that demonstrate an ability to **effectively deliver and manage services** as described within this RFP at the best value.

• Award amounts will vary based on several factors, such as the scope of the proposed response and the number of grant requests received. To provide guidance for applicants, the suggested size of awards is anticipated to range from **$150,000-$500,000**. Proposals that demonstrate a coordinated effort among two or more partners may be considered for larger grant awards.

• The agreement is anticipated to have a **contract term effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.** While the proposer may partner with another organization, one entity must serve as the fiscal agent.
ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

Eligible respondents include governmental, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations or agencies engaged in a public service. Governmental agencies serving the listed population focus:

• Priority will be given to community-based organizations with a track record of providing services to targeted populations of the city while maintaining high standards of program management and accountability.

• Priority will be given to proposals that incorporate partnerships and collaborations under this RFP. Partnerships focusing on seamless integration of services are strongly encouraged to ensure that there are no gaps in the continuum of programs and services. Partnerships are urged to include a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including but not limited to employers, higher education, adult basic education providers, and community-based organizations.

• Each applicant may apply as the lead applicant for only one proposal. Applicants may be members of more than one partnership under this RFP. Applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for more than one organization.
2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE RFP

RFP ISSUED Monday March 22, 2021
https://app.wizehive.com/apps/2021_Pandemic_Response_Program

PRE-PROPOSAL QUESTIONS Wednesday March 24, 2021 4:00 p.m. (MDT)
All general questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing by e-mail to DEDO_BusinessDevelopment_Proposals@denvergov.org. Additional questions may be asked at the Pre-Proposal Conference.

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE Wednesday March 31, 2021 1:30 p.m. (MDT)
This will be a TEAM LIVE EVENT to discuss the 2021 Pandemic Response RFP. Representatives from Denver Workforce Services and other staff will share the city’s guiding principles, priorities, and regulatory requirements, and will address questions about the 2021 Pandemic Response RFP and this process.

QUESTIONS ON RFP GUIDELINES DUE Monday, April 5, 2021 4:00 p.m. (MDT) DEDO_BusinessDevelopment_Proposals@denvergov.org

ADDENDUM TO RFP RELEASED Wednesday April 7, 2021 4:00 p.m. (MDT)
Answers to all questions and any significant changes to the RFP will be made available through an addendum published on the bit.ly/DEDOFundingOpportunities.

COMPLETED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE Monday April 12, 2021 4:00 p.m. (MDT)
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – CV

- Prepare for, Prevent, or Respond to COVID-19
- Duplication of Benefits

CDBG National Objectives

- Low to Moderate Income Benefit
  - Low-Moderate Clientele
  - Low-Moderate Area
- Data Reporting for CDBG

CDBG Eligible vs Ineligible Expenses

- Common expenses for public services:
  - Staff salaries
  - Supplies to offer services and training programs under scope of work
  - Proportional costs for rent, communications, subcontractors, etc.
- Common examples of ineligible expenses for public service programs under CDBG:
  - Equipment, with limited exceptions
  - Furniture
  - Income payments to program participants
  - Political activities

Learn more about federal dollars granted to Denver on DEDO’s Denver and HUD web pages, and in our new HUD User’s Guide
FAQs

Does this RFP allow for services to those who will initially need entry-level employment, potentially in non-career tracks (flagger, CDL, etc.)?

The RFP does allow for services that are intended to move people to entry-level employment, however priority will be given to proposals that are able to demonstrate clear career pathways to sustainable employment and self-sufficiency.

Is there an average or maximum cost per participant amount?

There is not a minimum or maximum cost per participant stated. We realize that programs and services vary depending upon the types of services and targeted populations.

What are the requirements for a participant regarding location?

This RFP is intended to award proposals that provide direct programs and services to Denver residents.

Do they have to currently live in Denver?

Programs and services shall be designed to serve Denver residents.

If they’re in a halfway house program in Arapahoe County but they reside in Denver, do they qualify?

The RFP would allow for this if the intent of the program is to move individuals with conviction as a barrier out of a halfway house and back to their home in Denver.
Is there a Word version of the application so we can draft our answers in the Word document then paste the answers into WizeHive?
   No, there is not. However, WizeHive does have a print option at the top of the application page that you can use to make a PDF version of your application.

What are the work/character limits for the narrative questions?
   1,000 character limit.
YOUR QUESTIONS