

August 15, 2017

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Reducing Adult Education Waiting Lists – Round 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Reducing Adult Education Waiting Lists – Round 1
- **Announcement Type:** Initial
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** 2017-01
- **Dates:** Applications in response to this notice must be received no later than **4:00PM on Friday, September 15, 2017**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered. The approximate start date for awards under this notice is expected to be in October 2017.
- **Application Submission:** Applications will accompany this notice and are also available through your Grant Manager. Completed Applications, along with a budget and 1-3 page brief should be returned to the Grant Manager.
- **Funding Availability:** The GWB has made \$200,000 available for awards under this notice.
- **Anticipated Amounts:** The GWB anticipates funding up to three (3) awards at a level of approximately \$65,000 for each award, but will consider awards of up to \$100,000 with proper justification. Projects awarded under this notice will have a budget and performance period until June 30, 2018.
- **Funding Instrument:** The authority for the award of funding for the Real Pathways RI program is governed by the provisions of Section 10 of the Rhode Island Procurement Regulations pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 37-2-13, called, “Expenditures that are not Procurements.”
- **Who Is Eligible:** Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity are Real Pathways RI partnerships receiving current funding from the Governor’s Workforce Board.
- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Matching resources are not required for awards issued pursuant to this notice. However, applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with budgets that maximize the application of award funding to the performance of project tasks and other direct project costs. Furthermore, applicants are expected to describe how they will braid and leverage other funds such as TANF, Adult Ed, and others to better serve clients.
- **Questions:** Questions from applicants pertaining to this notice may be submitted to dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov no later than 4:00PM on Friday August 25, 2017.

- **Funding Opportunity Description:** Adult Learners actively want to improve their skills and education level through HSE preparation, English language acquisition, or job training, yet are unable to do so due to resource restrictions. Rhode Island cannot build an inclusive economy that extends opportunity to all if these individuals are left behind, yet Adult Education programs across Rhode Island have an estimated total waiting list of nearly 2000 people. As many Real Pathways RI partners are also RIDE-approved Adult Education providers, GWB invites proposals from current Real Pathways RI partnerships to develop cost-effective approaches to reducing waiting lists for adult education services.

In addition to the required components of all applications, proposals should include tangible evidence and data regarding the applicant's current adult education waiting list, broken down by the service(s) being requested, a cost-effective plan to reduce said waiting list, and an estimate of the total number who will complete program activities and thus be removed from the adult education waiting list. The proposal should also describe how the applicant will braid and leverage other funds such as TANF, Adult Ed, and others to better serve clients.

- **Review and Selection Process**

- i. **Evaluation Criteria:** Applications in response to this notice will be reviewed based on the following criteria:
 - a. The sufficient documentation and evidence of the applicant's adult education waiting list;
 - b. The total reduction in the applicant's adult education waiting list relative to the amount of funds requested;
 - c. The likelihood of completion by participants as indicated by program supports, counseling, and other wrap-around services;
 - d. The capacity of the applicant to meet the performance expectations of the award;
 - e. The capacity of the applicant to administer the additional funds awarded.
- ii. **Initial Administrative Review of Applications:** An initial review of applications will be conducted to determine completeness and responsiveness to this notice and the scope of the stated program objectives. Applications determined to be incomplete, and/or non-responsive may be eliminated from further review. However, the GWB, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for an application that is missing non-substantive information, the lack of which may easily be rectified or cured.
- iii. **Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications:** All eligible, complete and responsive applications will be peer reviewed by at least three (3) independent, objective individuals with appropriate professional and technical expertise. Applications will be reviewed based on the evaluation criteria (see 'Evaluation Criteria'). Based on this evaluation reviewers will indicate whether an application is:

Fundable: The application meets or exceeds all evaluation criteria.

Unfundable: The application fails to meet at least one evaluation criterion.

- iv. **Selection.** The Selecting Official is the GWB Executive Director or his or her designee. The Selecting Official makes the final decision regarding the funding of applications under this notice. The Selecting Official shall be provided all applications as well as the funding recommendation from the evaluators.

The Selecting Official will generally select and recommend the most meritorious application for awards based on one or more of the evaluation criteria (see 'Evaluation Criteria'). The Selecting Official retains the discretion to select and recommend an application based on other factors otherwise related to the scope and intent of this notice (including, but not limited to, the geographic distribution of applicants) or to select and recommend no applications for funding.

As part of the overall review and selection process, GWB reserves the right to request that applicants provide pre-award clarifications and/or to enter into pre-award negotiations relative to programmatic, financial or other aspects of an application, such as but not limited to, the revision or removal of proposed budget costs, or the modification of proposed project activities, work plans or program goals and objectives. In this regard, GWB may request that applicants provide supplemental information prior to award. GWB also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant.

The award decisions of the Selecting Official are final.