

Questions from Q&A:

Q. Do these requests for proposals look the same every year as far as what you need to apply with?

A.) We sometimes make changes to the RFP it is similar to last year's other than that we limited to 10 programs. This year we have not set that limit.

Q.) If someone is selected for this year, do you just have to redo it every year or is there some sort of lock in so you can keep repeating it year to year without having to go through the whole request for proposal or is it a yearly requirement?

A.) That is a yearly requirement.

Q.) Are you looking for programs that address multiple Pre-Ets categories or just work-based learning is the opportunity, does that impact the scoring of the application?

A.) No actually what we are wanting is a program that focuses on one of the five services.

Q.) Are you expecting the services to be face to face services or can they be virtual services?

A.) No, we want face to face services.

Q.) Question on the individual meeting sessions for the accounting portion of this. Will those be required this year, or they recommended? Can you shed some light on to the budget process and any changes?

A.) We would encourage that if you have questions to reach out. I'm always more than willing, especially if you were a new program selected. We, Nebraska VR requirements through our federal partner through Rehabilitation Services Administration have different requirements than any other NDE Program that you may have worked with before. I would encourage that before you submit your billing that if your billing department wants to meet with myself, Pam, Melissa, we are more than willing to do that. We are not going to require it this year. I think we took that out. But we encourage it if you have questions. We put in the RFP some specific guidance on final billing in the RFP, hoping that will help but always knowing that you can reach out to myself, and I can help with any kind of questions.

Q.) Do you mind just given an example or 2 of what a couple of successful programs like this looked like in the past, how they've kind of built them out, what the learning has looked like, what the experiences have looked like?

A.) Some of the ones that we had last year were set up as work-based learning experiences. There was a piece of just discussing like work readiness skills, but the majority of it they were out in the community, and they were working and learning those skills they need to be a successful employee.

Q.) Was there any that included a classroom component?

A.) There have been some that have had a couple of hours in the classroom and a couple of hours out working in the businesses. Each program did that a little different.

I want to add that the programs that we have had in the past didn't go the whole time from April all the way through to the end of July. Some of them went like a month or some went a couple of months, so how long you do have your program is totally up to you. Some of our programs only last for even a week. Programs can really vary in length of service for the students throughout the summer. There is no contact requirement that it is so many required hours.

Q.) How many students need to be involved?

A.) That varies, according to each program., just depending on the program. It could be a school which would only have a handful and there are a lot of programs that have 20/30 kid or more. We do not put a requirement on how many students must be involved.

Q.) Do you get to decide which service you provide?

A.) Yes you get to decide what service you're going to provide. We don't decide that for you. You get to submit and then explain how you're going to provide that service to students.

Q.) Can we deliver the services virtually?

A.) No, we want the services to be provided face to face in person.

Q.) How are providers matched with clients?

A.) We want is the program to do some sort of advertising, have flyers.

Things that to get to the students that might be interested in the program. That is part of the proposal that we want to know how you're going to recruit students to be part of the program. You can work with the local VR office and the teams that work with Pre-Employment Transition students to develop that, but we would expect that the grantees or the people that we go into contract with would develop what their marketing strategy would be to students.

Q.) How many students are in Nebraska that have a disability?

A.) There are over 3000 students that are potentially eligible that we are serving.

Q.) Is there any requirement of a certified teacher or anything providing a part of that service or are job coaches, work-site skills trainers, DSP's are those acceptable as staff to run the day to day of the program.

A.) There is no requirement for a certified teacher in the proposal. You have to outline who your staff will be. Not necessarily their names, but like what their roles will be to support the students.

Q.) Have there been any changes in federal regulations regarding allowable expenses?

A.) No, we have not had any changes to the federal regulations regarding allowable expenses. A few things not allowed, our food items or transportation expenses for students. Food items are allowable if they are related directly to the service being provided. If you are doing an activity for job readiness where you're working to prepare students and preparing food or serving to work in any kind of industry around food. Then we could work on making that an allowable expense. However, to provide meals, breakfast, lunch, dinner, those things are not allowable expense under the 2CFRs. We also cannot use federal dollars to provide transportation for students. We can reimburse mileage for staff. You can utilize other resources to provide those, like donations. We just can't pay for those services. We cannot pay for a worksite skills trainer for one-to-one support for a student either. That is not allowed through the contract. That would have to be a conversation that if that's something that's needed would have to be taken to the VR offices to see if that's appropriate for a student. We also can not purchase items to be given away. T-shirts, nap-sacks and things that are basically a promotional item or things that do not have anything directly service related for the students can't be purchased with these funds either.

Q.) Can you explain the target population section of the RFP? It talks about participants needing to have an assigned Nebraska VR Pre-ETS Transition Services Consent, but then it says other students could be included without IEP's or 504's.

A.) Our definition of student is a student with a disability. That could be a student receiving special education services, a student receiving 504 accommodations or a student with a disability that does not receive IEP or 504 accommodations that is separate from you need to have a Pre-Employment Transition Consent. The Pre-Employment Transition Services Consent allows VR to pay federal funds for that. You could target students that aren't currently being served by VR. We would just say before the start of the program you would need to collect those consent forms so students could receive federal funds and receive those services from us or from your agency through us paying your agency to provide those services.

Q.) Do service providers need copies of the Pre-ETS agreements or do they only need to be shared with VR?

A.) Those only need to be shared with VR. As long as we get a copy of those that would be most important. Typically, what we have you do is share your participant list and then we can cross reference it to make sure that the students are signed up and are in our database. If they are not, we will let you know so you can collect that Pre-Employment Transition Consent but, students that already are receiving services from Nebraska VR do not need a new consent form.

Q.) If we have questions during the process, who do we reach out to?

A.) you can reach out to one of us or there is an email that the proposals need to be sent to and you can send your question to that email address. The email address is vr.summerprograms@nebraskaprograms.gov.

Q.) Will the recording be posted?

A.) The recording will be posted along with the questions that were asked today along with the answers on the VR website.

Q.) Could part of the award dollars be used to pay a wage to students who earn a credential and then work internship hours?

A.) No, that is not one of the 5 required services that are listed in the RFP. That is a VR Employment Service, so we would not be able to pay for a credential through the summer funds.

Q.) The Pre-Employment Transition Services #2 Work-Based Learning Experiences talks about, job shadowing, workplace site visits, work opportunities, paid or unpaid internships, the transferable skills and then summer employment. So that is why I was wondering about paying individuals after they've earned a credential.

A.) A student can get paid by doing a work-based learning experience. A paid work-based learning experience would be for the purpose of learning more about a job or a career or learning those job readiness skills. It's the credential part that takes it past that Pre-Ets Transition service. So as long as they are doing an internship not because they are earning or did earn that credential then it's a Pre-ETS service that they're learning about the employment or the work skills that they need to have a job or that job then it is fine. They just can't be doing it for a credential.

Q.) Can we use the funds if a t-shirt is used as a uniform?

A.) If the work-based learning experience requires a uniform, then that purchase is an allowable under these funds.

Q.) What is the maximum amount for the contract with us under this RFP?

A.) \$49,000 is the maximum amount.

Q.) Can you have more than one contract programs?

A.) We do not know at this time. We have never had this question before if we could award 2 contracts for 2 separate projects for 2 different services but done by one agency. It couldn't be on one contract because the RFP is set up for each contract would be one service, on project. It is not clear in the RFP if an agency could be awarded more than 1 contract. We need to take that back to our leadership team and get that clarified.

Q.) What is VR's definition of a credential. Does it have to be granted from a college or a post-secondary provider?

A.) This RFP does not cover credential. A credential is any kind of certification license that would help you with job development. This specific RFP cannot pay for credentials. Pre-Employment Services is about exposure and exploration. It is not about career development. If you could set up your boot camp around exposure and exploration then it could be accepted but if it goes beyond

exploration and exposure then it fall out of the realm of Pre-Employment Transition Services.