

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where to I apply for the Delta Workforce Grant Program?

2020 DWP project applications (and related attachments) are to be submitted electronically via the DWP Grant Portal at <https://workforce.dra.gov>.

What is the application deadline for the Delta Workforce Grant Program?

The application deadline for DRA's DWP initiative is October 12, 2020. A Notice of Intent to Apply is to be submitted through the DWP Grant Portal at <https://workforce.dra.gov>.

How much funding is available under the Delta Workforce Grant Program?

- Total Funding Available: \$1,500,000
- Award Ceiling: \$150,000
- Award Floor: \$25,000

The Delta Workforce Program mentions an industry-approved training partner. What is an industry-approved training partner? Are they required to be a US Department of Labor's registered provider?

An industry-approved training partner means the business being supported by the workforce grant approves the provider that will train the participants for their available jobs. Under anticipated outcomes, DRA wants to know if the applicant is creating a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program. This is not mandatory, but if that is what the applicant proposes, DRA wants to know how many certificates will be awarded based on how many apprentices the applicant proposes to train during the program.

The Delta Workforce Program RFP notes that the program targets resources to communities in the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt region. Does this mean that eligible applicants must be located within these two regions?

The applicant does not have to be located within the DRA regional boundary to be eligible for funding. However, Section D.2. of the RFP states, "To be eligible for DRA funding, applicants must propose to serve and benefit a portion of the Delta region as defined by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended" (pg. 10). Applications will need to clearly identify and discuss the population the proposal aims to serve. Eligible counties under this proposal can be found on DRA's website at <https://dra.gov/about-dra/map-room/>.

The RFP notes "Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education" are eligible applicants under this funding opportunity. Are private higher educational institutions eligible entities under the Delta Workforce Grant Program?

Yes, private institutions of higher education are considered eligible entities under the Delta Workforce Grant Program.

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Are administrative fees an eligible budget item under the Delta Workforce Grant Program?

Yes, administrative fees for managing an award proposal are an eligible budgetary line item under the Delta Workforce Grant Program. However, these fees are to be capped at a maximum of five percent (5%) of the total requested project funding. If administrative fees are included in the project budget, they should be noted on a separate line detailing the rate at which the fees are assessed.

Is there a list of eligible expenditures for the DWP?

No, there is not a list of eligible expenditures for the DWP. The DWP is designed to give applicants maximum flexibility to meet their local/regional workforce needs. However, proposed expenditures must be consistent with the DWP Investment Priorities and Objectives and meet an identified workforce need.

Is construction allowable under the DWP?

Yes, capital expenditures, such as modification to an existing facility, adding square footage, and purchasing of equipment, are allowable under the DWP. However, given the limited funding availability, applicants proposing large capital expenditures would need to discuss how the expenditures align with the DWP Investment Priorities and Funding Principles and advance the larger project goals.

Do program participants have to meet Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligibility guidelines?

No, program participants are not required to meet WIOA guidelines. The Delta Workforce Grant Program is designed to give applicants discretion in defining their target population. Your proposal will need to identify the target population (new entrants, dislocated workers, and/or incumbent workers); describe how your target population meets the eligibility requirements; and discuss why this population was selected.

The RFP indicates that awards will be made in November 2020. Does the grant period begin the day the award is announced?

The grant period of performance begins once an official Notice to Proceed has been issued. An official Notice to Proceed will, generally, be received 5-10 business days following the award announcement. Upon receiving a Notice to Proceed, awardees will be authorized to begin accruing expenses toward their project. No expenses accrued prior to the date of the Notice to Proceed will be allowed unless prior approval was obtained in writing from DRA.