Oregon Department of Education

YDD Future Ready Oregon Youth Programs Grant

Questions and Answers

Date:	**July 22, 2022**
Single Point of Contact:	**Bethany Moreland**
Phone:	**503-508-8991**
Email:	**Bethany.Moreland@ode.oregon.gov**

Note: Original questions are summarized to leave out identifying information.

Q1a: If we have a youth program in mind, but it doesn't start until October 2022, are we still eligible to apply?

A1a: Yes, applicants planning to begin work at a later date during the grant period (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) may apply. Programs are not required to begin work until a grant agreement is in place. Awarded applicants will be eligible for reimbursement of costs associated with the funded program during the grant period, or from the point at which activities and services begin during that period if later than July 1, 2022.

Q1b: If we are eligible to apply, do we reduce the dollar amount we apply for?

A1b: As per Section 1.3 (p.3) in the RFA, the Grant has its separate minimum and maximum grant award amounts as listed: $50,000 - $150,000. There is no requirement that you reduce the amount you apply based on the duration of your program. The requested amount may be based upon the planned program size, services proposed, anticipated costs, etc. Successful applicants should be prepared to provide a detailed budget and explain spending plans during grant negotiations.

Q2: Is an approved Apprentice Program a requirement for a grant?

A2: A program does not need to provide an apprenticeship program to receive Future Ready Oregon funds, but all apprenticeship programs funded by Future Ready Oregon dollars must be registered with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and are subject to all BOLI regulations.

Q3: The Evaluation Item 3: Core Activity is assigned 100 points and indicates the requirement of having an Industry Recognized Credential. How would our proposal be rated when it will not be including an Industry Recognized Credential? May we add that we will be working on the development of a tribal Enterprise Recognized Credential?

A3: The RFA defines Industry Recognized Credential as "a certification or credential earned via specialized training that is accepted by a workplace, profession or industry as evidence of sufficient skill for employment, qualifies an individual to attain employment, and/or confers an advantage to be considered for employment within that field." This is a broad and flexible definition, intended to accommodate a variety of

potential credential models, including those that may be new or emerging for an industry or employer. A tribal enterprise credential may meet this definition. In the response to Evaluation Item 3, please provide evidence that the credential would be recognized, and how attainment of this credential would lead to employment.

Q4: 3.2.1.2 Bureau of Labor and Industries Certification: "Any organization intending to employ minors (any youth under 18 years of age) must have an employment certificate issued by the Bureau of Labor and Industries allowing the employment of minors. Applicants must provide this certificate or proof of having applied at time of application submission. This application may be found online here."

We have in place a Summer Youth Program that employs students below the age of 18 years. Does the BOLI requirement cited above apply for tribal nations when we submit this proposal?

A4: Tribal nations and tribal employers which are exempt from BOLI jurisdiction are not required to submit child labor certificates or conform to other BOLI requirements noted within the RFA.

Q5: One of the insurance requirements is physical abuse and molestation insurance. If our program is serving students 18 and older, and would not be open to minors, would we still need that physical abuse insurance?

A5: A program that does not serve participants under 18 years of age would not automatically remove the requirement for physical abuse and molestation insurance coverage, and in some cases programs serving individuals 18 and older may be required to carry this coverage. If conditionally awarded, an applicant may request an additional risk-assessment review of their proposed program, for consideration of individual insurance coverage type requirements, which the YDD may provide at its discretion based on the reason for request. The types and coverage amounts of insurance that are required are determined using a State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services Insurance Risk Assessment, and coverage amount minimums are not negotiable. Grant funds may be budgeted for the coverage of insurance costs related to program provision.

Q6: What is the definition of "Recognized Credential"?

A6: Per the RFA: "Industry-Recognized Credential" means a certification or credential earned via specialized training that is accepted by a workplace, profession or industry as evidence of sufficient skill for employment, qualifies an individual to attain employment, and/or confers an advantage to be considered for employment within that field. Applicants should present evidence of industry recognition and likelihood of job placement via attainment of this credential within the grant application. An industry-recognized pre-apprenticeship program may be considered such a credential.

Q7: Where can a copy of the grant questions be found or a link to them?

A7: The questions are in the RFA, in section 4.2. Additionally, Attachment E shows all of the SM Apply application contents, including the questions.

The RFA can be accessed here: https://odemail-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/ydd_onedrive_ode_oregon_gov/Eae5Y8AqmJVKmF4IlKuxFUUBNwavM8RMZITUihDTZAAvKA?e=C2iHM6

Q8: For those agencies that may not be able to start any activities until funding comes through, is a "no activity" report sufficient for the tentative 10/20/22 report due date?

A8: The YDD understands that some organizations may not be able to begin programming until funding is confirmed. In Attachment A Sample Grant Agreement, Section VII states that grantees will not be penalized for failure to complete reporting requirements before an executed grant agreement is in place. Additionally, the YDD generally works with grantees to tailor first quarter reports as appropriate depending on how long programming has been in place and when work was able to begin.

Q9: What is a YDD Reengagement program?

A9: It is a program that has received a YDD Reengagement grant.

Q10: If our organization is a registered organization in the Oregon Business Registry, but we have a fiscal agent, may that non-profit fiscal agent ALSO apply for a grant? Basically, are we eligible if we have a fiscal agent? Can both our organization and the organization of the non-profit fiscal agent apply if the fiscal agent is in a different region?

A10: First, both organizations may apply even if one is using the other one as a fiscal agent but must be providing distinct programs serving different youth. This is permissible regardless of the regions served by the applicant and the fiscal agent. Second, the one organization could apply and use the other as the fiscal agent, but the region is based on the business address of the applicant and not their fiscal agent, unless the applicant received a variance of region under 4.3.2.

Q11: If an organization serves the defined population (not enrolled in school, not employed, and/or enrolled in YDD reengagement program), can the organization use these funds to also offer services to youth who are not in this age [service population] group?

A11: Funds from Future Ready grants should only be used to serve eligible youth. An organization serving a broader youth population may apply for and receive a Future Ready Grant. However, these funds should be restricted for use in providing services to eligible participants under the grant: youth between 14-24 years old at program enrollment, who are out of school, not employed, or enrolled in a YDD Reengagement Program.

Q12: For applicants that cover multiple regions, how do you decide which region they'll be assigned to?

A12: Regional assignation is only used for the first part of the award process; after regional awards, all applications are ranked on score, and awards are made in order of score, based on available funding. All applications are still in consideration for the second phase of the award process, regardless of region.

An applicant's region is determined by their established business address. Per RFA Section 4.3.2, an applicant may request to change regions by submitting the appropriate documentation to the SPC no later than close of RFA. An applicant that will provide services in multiple regions may apply within its default region (location of business address) or in an alternate region, based on where a significant portion of services are delivered.

Q13: What if your organization serves statewide?

A13: Regional assignation is only used for the first part of the award process; after regional awards, all applications are ranked on score, and awards are made in order of score, based on available funding. All applications are still in consideration for the second phase of the award process, regardless of region.

An applicant's region is determined by their established business address. Per RFA Section 4.3.2, an applicant may request to change regions by submitting the appropriate documentation to the SPC no later than close of RFA. An applicant that will provide services across the state may apply within its default region (location of business address) or in an alternate region, based on where a significant portion of services are delivered.

Q14: Is this an opportunity to renew the Reengagement Opportunity Grant or is this a completely different program funding opportunity?

A14: This is a completely different program funding opportunity and is not connected to the Reengagement Opportunity Grant.

Q15: As a public school district, our boundaries include two of these regions. Which region do we select or are we able to select two regions?

A15: An applicant's region is determined by their established business address. You may not select two regions. Per RFA Section 4.3.2, an applicant may request to change regions by submitting the appropriate documentation to the SPC no later than close of RFA.

Regional assignation is only used for the first part of the award process; after regional awards, all applications are ranked on score, and awards are made in order of score, based on available funding. All applications are still in consideration for the second phase of the award process, regardless of region.

Q16: Regarding the target populations, out-of-school or out-of-work: are programs that serve youth who are in school (such as a high schooler or college student), but do not have work, eligible?

A16: Yes. Per Senate Bill 1545, youth are eligible if they are out of school, out of work, or enrolled in a YDD Reengagement Program.

Q17: Are these true state dollars?

A17: Funding for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 will be state general funds. Beginning July 1, 2023, federal ARPA dollars will also fund these grants.

Q18: Does out of school youth include high school graduates?

A18: Yes. If a youth is not currently enrolled in school, they would qualify as out of school, even if they have previously earned a high school credential.

Q19: Does all the money need to go to students who are *not* enrolled in school at the current time?

A19: No. Per Senate Bill 1545, youth are eligible if they are out of school, out of work, or enrolled in a YDD Reengagement Program. Youth who are enrolled in school but not working (or served by a YDD Reengagement Program) would be eligible for services.

Q20: What is the date for awards to be messaged and can a contract be backdated to July 1?

A20: The YDD anticipates releasing the notice of intent to award in late August or early September 2022. If qualifying grant activities occur before a grant agreement is signed, grantees may request reimbursement for these activities back to July 1, 2022.

Q21: If we have applied for other Future Ready funding, will this impact our funding consideration?

A21: Applications to other agencies for Future Ready funding will not impact consideration for YDD Future Ready funding. The information is being collected for reporting purposes and coordination with Future Ready agency partners. If you are pursuing or receiving other Future Ready funding, it must support different and distinct costs from what this grant would cover, and it should support unique programming, participants and/or service sites.

Q22: We applied for a YDD grant in February and are waiting for a response. Are we still eligible to apply for this grant, assuming we meet all the qualifications?

A22: Yes, if you meet all qualifications, you may apply for this funding. Being a recipient or applicant for other YDD funding will not impact eligibility for this grant. Note that if an organization receives more than one grant from YDD or Future Ready Oregon, these funds must be used for distinct programs, service locations and/or youth.

Q23: Can you talk more about the requirement for a government applicant to have a partner? We are a park and recreation agency (government) that has our own workforce development program that teaches essential employment skills and offers paid work experiences in our departments. Would we still need a partner to provide those services?

A23: The language in Evaluation Item 4/Application section 4.2.5 contains an error, and city and county governments are not required to have a service provider partnership. Only schools, school districts and education service districts are required to have a partner in service delivery. Note that a non-profit organization/community-based organization that operates a school program may select "non-profit organization" in the eligibility section of the application and would not be subject to this requirement.

Q24: The grant's description mentions "career exploration" - what component of the grant (Essential Skills or one of the 3 other required components) would you like those activities described in?

A24: Career Exploration is not a specific component of service delivery but refers to the ways that participants receive exposure to career paths through the Core Activities: paid work experience, job placement or credential programs.

Q25: Our organization has a career preparation program. Would tuition-based slots in that program be an allowable expense?

A25: Program funds may be used to pay tuition or fees related to training programs that meet the requirements of the grant. Grant recipients may not charge participants for participation in services delivered in whole or in part with YDD Future Ready grant dollars.

Q26: Do you have any further details about the types of accepted 'evidence' that a workplace certification will be recognized by the applicable industry? If this is a certification our workplace created, are there any specific details that would make our description of its job placement benefits seem especially legitimate?

A26: There is not a set standard or type of evidence. Evidence may include a demonstrated history of the certification leading to job placement, an MOU or agreement with an industry partner, testimonials from

employers, or other indications of recognition of the certificate and employment opportunities for individuals who attain the credential.

Q27: Are you required to serve 14-24 or can you serve 18-24?

A27: Applicants are not required to serve the entire age range of 14-24. Applicants may serve a portion within that range (e.g. 18-24).

Q28: Can we apply under the region in which we serve the majority yet still serve the students within our public school district that reside in another region?

A28: Yes. Your business address is only used in the regional awarding process but does not limit where you may serve youth. If you would like to request to change your application's region, follow the guidelines in RFA Section 4.3.2.

Q29: Are there regions in the state that are traditionally underserved? If so, could we possibly concentrate our primary efforts in that region as well as others, but apply with that primary region listed on the application?

A29: Yes, data show that there are regions of the state with higher proportions of underserved populations and/or educational and employment outcome data that indicates greater need for services. Applicants may choose to concentrate services within a region with greater needs or disparities in outcomes. If your business address is not your primary service region and you would like to request to change regions in your application, follow the guidelines in RFA Section 4.3.2.

Q30: Are there restrictions on uses of funding? For example, can we pay youth to work in a business under these funds?

A30: You may pay youth with these funds. Wages may be paid for work experiences and employment provided by the applicant or a partner providing employment for youth. For restrictions on fund usage, please see RFA Section 3.2.1.3.

Q31: Evaluation Item 4, Partnerships gives 80 points for partnerships. It sounds like nonprofits are not required to have partnerships. However, if a nonprofit applies without partners, do they then lose those 80 points?

A31: The YDD considers partnerships a valuable component of services to youth and requests that applicants discuss partnerships in their applications, with a couple of caveats:

Tribal applicants may describe partnerships that exist solely within the Tribal Nation and are not required to partner with organizations or entities outside of the Tribal Nation (Application reviewers will be apprised of this distinction).

Non-profit organizations are not required to have official partnerships supported by MOUs or other written agreements for this grant. We do request that applicants discuss their community partnerships, including any entity involved in outreach or recruitment of participants, design and delivery of services, or other aspects of programming. Reviewers will score this evaluation item based on the information provided.

Q32: The word limit for each answer is very limiting. Is there any chance of expanding some of them?

A32: Unfortunately, word limits cannot be changed at this point. We appreciate the feedback and will determine what changes we need to make for future RFAs.

Q33: Can grant funds be used to pay for paid work experiences for youth and for needs of youth pursuing credentials?

A33: Yes, grant funds can be used for both purposes.

Q34: I believe you mentioned that funds can be applied toward costs of existing relevant services/programming. Would that include using these funds to expand programming from other general fund programs, such as the Oregon Youth Employment Program?

A34: Yes, if you meet all qualifications, you may apply for this funding. Being a recipient or applicant for OYEP funding will not impact eligibility for this grant. If you intend to use Future Ready funds to expand your OYEP program, you should be able to clearly distinguish how this funding would expand or enhance programs and/or reach more youth.

Q35: May funds be used to reimburse a portion of salary and fringe for staff working on the project?

A35: Yes, funds may be used for personnel costs. Please see RFA Attachment B for budget categories.

Q36: Is it permissible to use funds for a program that allows youth outside the age range? For example, if the program allows 13-15 year-olds, could we use the funding for that program even though 13 year-olds are outside the age range

A36: Funds from Future Ready grants should only be used to serve eligible youth. An organization serving a broader youth population may apply for and receive a Future Ready Grant. However, these funds should be restricted for use in providing services to eligible participants under the grant: youth between 14-24 years old at program enrollment, who are out of school, not employed, or enrolled in a YDD Reengagement Program.

Q37: Can funds be used to continue a workforce development program offered to youth into the fall and winter 2022/2023 (this program is currently funded through summer 2022)?

A37: Yes, Future Ready funds may be used to sustain or extend existing programming that fits the grant requirements.

Q38: Would these funds be eligible to build out training/internship experiences by putting together Eligible Training Provider List certifications geared toward specific youths' career interests?

A38: Funds must be used for the delivery of the services listed in 4.2.3 and 4.2.4.

Q39: In section 5.1.4, it alludes to negotiations for insurance. I also read the Grant Negotiations section but am having trouble finding which terms are eligible for negotiation in the Sample Grant (Attachment A). If I am reading that correctly, does this mean that if our application is successful, we could enter into negotiations about the level of insurance in the event that we are not able to meet the maximums. I recognize that you cannot comment on the success of negotiations.

A39: The insurance requirements shown in the sample grant agreement are based on a risk assessment of the anticipated "typical program" that may be funded under this grant. If conditionally awarded, an applicant

may request an additional risk-assessment review of their proposed program, for consideration of individual insurance coverage type requirements based on program activities, which the YDD may provide at its discretion based on the reason for request. The types and coverage amounts of insurance that are required are determined using a State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services Insurance Risk Assessment, and coverage amount minimums are not negotiable. Grant funds may be budgeted for the coverage of insurance costs related to program provision.

Q40: If an organization provides work experience and job coaching/placement and specialized training, are we only able to choose one to write about on the grant application or will we be able to choose multiple services that are provided?

May we provide work experience and job coaching/placement and specialized training with grant funds?

A40: Only one application will be considered from a given applicant, per section 1.3. The application only allows for a response to one of the 3 Core Activities. Programs may choose to offer services that touch on more than one of these Core Activities, and it would be permissible to use these funds to do so. For the purpose of your response to Evaluation Item 3, you should identify the Core Activity that would be the primary focus of your proposed program and grant fund usage. For example, if the primary program activity is job placement/coaching, and the majority of funding would be used to support this Core Activity, that would be the appropriate activity to describe in your application, even if some participants may also receive industry recognized credentials. You may report outcomes beyond those of the Core Activity you apply to provide.

Q41: What is the difference between the Reengagement Opportunity grant and this one?

A41: The Future Ready Youth Programs Grant is a new grant established by Senate Bill 1545, which was passed during Oregon's 2022 legislative session. The legislation tasked the Youth Development Division to invest in workforce development programs for youth ages 14-24 who are out of school, unemployed, or currently enrolled in a YDD Reengagement Program. The primary focus of this grant is to connect youth to job placement and workforce development opportunities. Organizations who meet the requirements in the RFA are eligible to apply even if they are current recipients of other YDD grants. A YDD Reengagement program may apply for a Future Ready Youth Programs grant in order to create or expand workforce development services for reengaged youth.