



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
MassHire Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: June 17, 2019

Subject: **Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning Pilots – Request for Qualifications**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other workforce investment partners of a Request for Qualification (RFQ) through Commonwealth Corporation.

Background: Commonwealth Corporation is pleased to release a RFQ for Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning Pilots. This RFQ, which stems from the work of Governor Charlie Baker's Commission on Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning, will fund three partnerships between employers and higher education, training, and workforce development organizations. Partnerships will receive up to \$200,000 each to develop and implement new digital or hybrid competency-based training programs for entry-level health care workers.

Commonwealth Corporation is pleased to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning Pilots. This RFQ, which stems from the work of Governor Charlie Baker's Commission on Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning, will fund three partnerships between employers and higher education, training, and workforce development organizations.

Partnerships will receive up to \$200,000 each to develop and implement new digital or hybrid competency-based training programs for entry-level health care workers.

This initiative is supported by the Strada Education Network and the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants, an initiative of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Through their participation, partnerships will have the opportunity to co-create new training programs during a six-month Program Design phase led by Commonwealth Corporation and e-learning experts. The program design phase will focus on helping partnerships with their curricula, build effective coaching and supports, and create a strategic plan. During a subsequent 18-month Implementation Phase, a first cohort of students from each employer will enroll as pilot members in the new programs offered by the higher education institution and/or training provider.

By creating new flexible, affordable, digitally enabled training programs, these innovative pilots will:

- Help address the state's shortage of health care workers;
- Increase participants' economic mobility and opportunities for career advancement;
- Enhance the capacity of employers and educational institutions to co-create new digitally based programming for incumbent workers in a growing field.

These pilots are the first phase of a larger effort by Commonwealth Corporation and its state partners to establish a first-in-the-nation ecosystem of lifelong learning – a transformative shift in the way we approach postsecondary education, better aligning it with the skills employers need, and increasing accessibility for all. For more information on this and the other recommendations of Governor Baker's Commission on Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning, please visit

commcorp.org/programs/commission-digital-innovation-lifelong-learning.

Applying for the RFQ is a simple two-stage process:

1. Letters of intent from each partnership's lead applicant are due Friday, July 12 by 5:00 PM. As detailed in the RFQ, please upload your letter electronically to the following link: commcorp.tfaforms.net/328766
2. Invited applicants will then be asked to submit a full application by Friday, October 18 at 5:00 PM.

Next Steps

[Sign up here \(dillrfqwebinar.eventbrite.com\)](http://dillrfqwebinar.eventbrite.com) for our webinar on Wednesday, June 26 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM. During this session we will provide additional

information about the Pilot design, RFQ application process and share the project's context within the findings and recommendations of Governor Baker's Commission on Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

Please see the RFQ for more information: commcorp.org/available-funding.

Action

Requested: Please share with management, staff and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Questions will be accepted in writing through Friday, July 5 at 5:00 PM. Please submit these via email to DILLPilotQuestions@commcorp.org. Applicants can sign up at this link (commcorp.tfaforms.net/328768) to receive email notifications when new responses are posted.