



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: August 19, 2020

Subject: **Senator Kenneth J Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for ESOL-Enhanced Training and Placement Programs Request for Qualifications Released**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners of the Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) announcement of the **Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for ESOL-Enhanced Training and Placement Programs Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**.

Background: CommCorp seeks qualified partnerships that will collaborate with a design team for three to four months to design or re-design a sector-based training and placement program that incorporates contextualized English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services in order to better serve individuals for whom English is not their first language and/or have limited English proficiency, resulting in improved job access and financial stability for individuals and their families while meeting employer demand for talent.

Applicants may request up to \$25,000 for initial program design activities. Following the program design phase, each partnership will, upon review and approval of their implementation plan, be awarded up to an additional \$350,000 to implement their program for approximately two years.

Successful partnerships, consisting of employers, nonprofits, workforce entities, ESOL training providers, and/or other community-based organizations, will build their capacity to provide language supports alongside occupational and work readiness skills training, while prioritizing community engagement/outreach, individualized coaching, and intensive placement and post-placement support services. It is anticipated programs will need to include virtual/remote and hybrid learning approaches.

As part of an ongoing strategy given persistent racial inequities and related workforce challenges in the Commonwealth, and in the context of rapidly shifting economic conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative is intended to support pilot programs that will leverage learning from previous WCTF programming and ongoing best practices in ESOL educational services in order to reach populations who have traditionally experienced higher rates of unemployment and barriers to employment, including populations emphasized by the [Black Advisory Commission](#) and [Latino Advisory Commission](#).

Questions will be accepted in writing through September 9, 2020 by 5:00 PM.

Please submit these via email to Anthony Britt at abritt@commcorp.org.

Prospective applicants are able to receive email notifications when new questions are posted online by signing up at the following link:

<https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328844>

The deadline to submit responses is September 23, 2020 by 5:00 PM.

Please upload your submission electronically to the following link:

<https://commcorp.tfaforms.net/328845>

Please see the **Request for Qualifications:**

<http://commcorp.org/available-funding/>

Action

Requested: Please share this issuance with all appropriate managers and partners.

Effective: Immediately.

Inquiries: Please direct all questions to Anthony Britt at abritt@commcorp.org.