**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFA# 202307161: Teacher Apprenticeship Pilot Program Grant Funding |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Department of Labor,  Bureau of Employment Services |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | September 1, 2023 |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | September 12, 2023 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | September 25, 2023, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section C, pg. 9 | Am I eligible to apply or partner with other organizations to apply even though our organization already has an apprenticeship project under RFA 202111177: Maine Apprenticeship Program Grant? |
| **Answer** | |
| No existing projects funded under RFA 202111177: Maine Apprenticeship Program Grant can receive additional funding through this grant. Organizations who received funding through RFA 202111177 may partner with other organizations to submit an application for an entirely distinct project. | |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D | The RFA says for the minimum award of $75,000, the applicant must serve at least “12 new apprentices or pre-apprentices.” How is apprentices/pre-apprentices “served” defined? |
| **Answer** | |
| The number served indicates the number of unique individuals that are enrolled in the educator pre-apprentice or apprenticeship program. | |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Page 11 | What is the distinction between pre and registered apprenticeship? |
| **Answer** | |
| Pre-apprenticeship training program are designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship program; and have a documented partnership agreement that includes arrangements for facilitated entry of graduates of the pre-apprenticeship training program with at least one registered program.  Pre-apprentices may be paid or unpaid. They can be from high school, CTEs and other youth or adult programs that provide a pathway to a registered apprenticeship program pursuant to Maine Statute, Chapter 37 [Title 26, §3213: Preapprenticeship training programs (maine.gov)](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/26/title26sec3213.html)  A registered apprenticeship program is a paid career pathway that includes structured on the job learning in concert with related classroom training. | |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | How many participants can be involved in this program at one time, from the beginning? |
| **Answer** | |
| This program must serve a minimum of 12 people during the grant period. The number served indicates the number of unique individuals that are enrolled in the educator pre-apprentice or apprenticeship program.  There is no maximum number of participants. The maximum award is $250,000; total funding requested may not exceed $6,000 per Apprentice or pre-Apprentice served, so a program must serve at least 42 people to request the maximum amount. | |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Can you explain exactly what a registered apprenticeship program is? |
| **Answer** | |
| Per the U.S. Department of Labor, a Registered Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally-recognized credential. Some registered apprenticeships are only one year in length, while others can be up to six years. In Maine, Registered Apprenticeships are industry-vetted and approved and validated by the Maine Department of Labor’s Maine Apprenticeship Program.  At the end of the apprenticeship, the apprentice will receive a nationally-recognized credential issued by the Maine Department of Labor within their industry. For more details on the requirements of registered apprenticeship please visit [Homepage | Apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov/) | |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Where and how does the 144 hours of instruction take place? |
| **Answer** | |
| The related instruction may take place through a variety of education providers provided the curriculum meets the requirements and needs of the employer based registered apprenticeship program. Instruction may take place in a classroom, online, by the employer or any combination of delivery methods. | |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Can one entity be part of multiple grant applications? |
| **Answer** | |
| Yes, one entity may be part of multiple grant applications. The Department encourages applications be submitted by a variety of eligible organizations to support the goals established in the RFA. | |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section C,  Page 11 | Allowable Activity #6, Supports to improve equitability and accessibility. If a district wanted to use grant money to add to their current tuition reimbursement employee benefit that apprentices would receive, would that addition be considered a supportive service and subject to the 5 percent cap? |
| **Answer** | |
| Supporting tuition costs of registered apprentices would be a training cost as described under allowable activity #2. Training costs are not subject to the 5% cap. | |