



Frequently Asked Questions - RFEI

Funding Source: [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)](#)

1. What is the amount of funding that's available? Is there a cap we can apply for?

- Washington County is not setting a cap for the amount of funding that partners may consider pursuing. We are asking applicants to instead consider the level of financial resources needed to make a meaningful impact around providing workforce development services to residents of Washington County. The County is looking for a number of partners that can provide services to its' residents and will be considering all options and proposals submitted for their ability to scale-up and roll out services both short-term and long-term.
- The County anticipates investing approximately \$2MM in Workforce Development programs and services through this two-step solicitation process as detailed in the RFEI. For more information about the County's framework for disbursement of its first tranche of ARPA funding, please visit the [County's ARPA Webpage](#).

2. When would services need to start?

- The County requests that funded services are initiated as soon as possible—within the next several months—to best meet near-term workforce challenges. Please note, while the County seeks programs to start as-soon-as-possible, we are equally focused on providing a quality product/service in the county and will be working with the selected parties to ensure that any new programming for services lead to long-term impacts We are seeking investments that lead to lasting change.

3. Do services need to take place within Washington County?

- Services would need to be delivered to Washington County residents in the most convenient and safest way possible. While in-person trainings have become the norm, we do anticipate a need for remote training options and would like to see innovative submissions that address issues of accessibility for our residents. The County is seeking to identify providers that will provide employment on-ramps, related trainings and wrap-around supports that connect residents to quality jobs, for workers displaced by the pandemic and marginalized communities including—BIPOC, women, veterans, people with disabilities, low-income and rural residents. We ask that the applicants take into consideration the challenges and barriers that these communities face to access programs and services.

4. If an organization doesn't have a federally approved rate, is it acceptable to charge the 10% de minimis rate?

- Yes, the 10% de minimis rate is acceptable if the applying entity does not have a federally approved rate.

5. Will matching/leverage funding be required?

- We encourage applicants to consider multiple funding streams when applying, including funds from other agencies, foundations, or organizations. We recognize that relying on several sources of funds helps to sustain, expand, and increase resources in our community. Applications should note that these ARPA funds are Federal funds, which means that they cannot be matched with other Federal funds.

6. What kind of funds are these?

- The funds are federal dollars, awarded as part of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funding which the County received to address their workforce challenges as part of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Link (Federal): <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

Link (County): https://www.co.washington.or.us/Support_Services/Finance/GrantManagement/american-rescue-plan-opportunities.cfm

7. Can we submit more than one proposal?

- Each organization may submit one submission for their own “in-house” programs or services. Organizations may also join other organizations in a joint application. Organizations are encouraged to work collaboratively with one-another and may join multiple “teams.” If your organization plans to join multiple teams, we ask that each organization cross reference other submissions that you have joined.

8. Is there a maximum number of awards that Washington County is looking to fund?

- Washington County is seeking to fund a wide range of workforce development programs and services through this two-part solicitation. As such, we do not have a limit on the count of submissions but will use the criteria as set forth in the RFEI and the County’s allocated ARPA workforce budget to determine the number of submissions that go on to the next round.

9. Can these funds be used for support staffing in administering the programming along with direct service needs of the clients?

- These funds are intended to support workforce development programs and services to support Washington County residents. Indirect costs to administer these programs and services are allowed.

10. What info do we need to submit in response to the RFEI?

Please refer to the Updated [RFEI document](#) for these details. We have also listed the requirements below.

- Sponsoring Entity
- Contact Person/Info
- The organization’s qualifications
- Description of how the organization will engage with and benefit traditionally disadvantaged communities located within Washington County—including the ability to implement culturally and linguistically relevant outreach approach with focus on services of particular interest to targeted communities.
- A summary-level description of the services that the organization would propose to provide in partnership with the County in the second round of this process. This summary should include:
 - a description of the type and scale of the services,
 - where the services will be offered,
 - who the services will target,
 - how the program will target workers in traditionally disadvantaged communities/business sectors,
 - what metrics will be employed to demonstrate program success,
 - a timeline of how rapidly these services could be implemented within the county, and
 - how the County’s support would leverage other concurrent investments,
- A high-level budget (programmatic not organizational)

11. Who will be on the review committee of all submissions?

The County will convene a Review Panel consisting of County staff and, as determined necessary, outside partners to consider which submissions to recommend for the second round of this solicitation. The Review Panel will use the evaluation criteria listed in the Updated RFEI in forming its recommendations for submissions that go onto the next round.

The Review Panel will serve in an advisory capacity. County staff will determine which of the submissions to “short list” for the second solicitation round. This determination will be based on the number and quality of responses to this RFEI.

The “short list” of organizations will be invited to participate in the second solicitation round. The second-round solicitation will require that the organizations provide a more detailed submission including approach, work plan, line-item budget, targeted outreach, partners, timeline, and ability to meet performance, compliance, and other local and federal regulations.

12. Proof of Concept models or new ideas? (Past existing programming, ok?)

All innovative and creative ideas will be welcomed and encouraged for submission. Washington County is seeking assistance from local organizations and education/training institutions to help support a robust response to the growing workforce challenges spurred by the pandemic.

Washington County desires to engage with multiple partners to provide workforce services intended to:

- Provide employment on-ramps, related trainings and wrap-around supports that connect residents to quality jobs, for workers displaced by the pandemic and marginalized communities including—BIPOC, women, veterans, people with disabilities, low-income and rural residents.
- Expose youth and underemployed workers to career opportunities and provide them with foundational skills to acquire new positions, such as language courses, digital literacy, or professional development.
- Focus on industry-specific on-the-job training opportunities increase economic mobility for incumbent workers and help local industries acquire new talent.
- Expand service capacity for existing or emerging local workforce development programs through collaborative partnerships.
- Administer and manage a range of workforce service and programs on behalf of the County.

13. When will the awards be announced?

All submissions will be reviewed by the Review Panel following the week of March 3rd, with an announcement about Round Two eligible organizations expected in late Winter 2022 on which organizations will be invited to submit full proposals.

14. Can these dollars be used to fund current/on-going program?

The County is currently looking at ways to increase their investment in workforce development programming to support our local businesses, job seekers and the overall workforce within our region. All creative, innovative and collaborative submissions will be considered, including increasing current offerings along with their impact to the greater community.