

Farms & Agribusiness WE Grant Questions & Answers

Questions Open: October 15, 2024

Questions End: October 23, 2024

Please note that all questions have been paraphrased.

Questions may be submitted to RA-LI-BWDA-GS@pa.gov prior to the deadline of October 23, 2024 at 4 pm.

Question: L&I made this grant opportunity available a few years ago. Was it awarded?

Answer: The opportunity was made available through a different procurement process but the opportunity did not secure a successful applicant and therefore, the opportunity was not funded.

Question: If the applying organization functions statewide, in reference to Appendix G, which local workforce development board should be notified of the intent to apply?

Answer: The application process only requires notifying the local board in the area where you are located.

Question: What qualifies a farm or agribusiness as being eligible for this program?

Answer: Definitions of eligible farms and agribusinesses can be found in the NGA on page 9.

Question: Are matching funds a required component of the budget?

Answer: Matching funds are not required in the budget.

Question: Can out of state vendors be utilized as sub-contractors?

Answer: Out of state vendors may be utilized as sub-contractors. Please review the Budget & Invoicing Instructions in Appendix E for details regarding allowable costs, unallowable costs, and an explanation of cost categories.

Question: Will specific tracking and recording forms or software be provided by L&I?

Answer: Tracking documents will be provided by L&I, software will not be provided. Tracking documents are intended to provide L&I with a goal and metric tracking management system to document the success of grant initiatives.

Question: Is it permissible to offer incentives for producers or business owners or their employees to participate in training? Or if training is provided in person, can funds be used to reimburse for mileage or other expenses incurred by participants?

Answer: Please review the Budget & Invoicing Instructions in Appendix E for details regarding allowable costs, unallowable costs, and an explanation of cost categories.

Question: If educational materials such as webinars and publications are made available for individuals to access independently, can their use count towards the total outreach goals?

Answer: The outreach goals are dependent upon entity registration in CWDS.

Question: Can the awareness training for 1000 agribusiness owners be virtual or must it be in-person?

Answer: As stated in the NGA on page 10, "Due to digital literacy gaps apparent in the agricultural sector, we anticipate that multiple one-on-one or group in-person training sessions will be scheduled and delivered at convenient locations across the state using tools and resources that the audience is comfortable with (virtual programs will be considered as a secondary option to fill remaining gaps)."

Question: Do the 100 technical assistance hours need to be generated from the 1000 subgroup?

Answer: No, additional farms and agribusinesses outside of the 1000 initially targeted can be provided with technical assistance hours, which would count toward the goal of 10,000 hours.

Question: Once businesses have been identified as needing further assistance, can group presentations be utilized to reach several of these businesses at one time if they have similar needs? Would the group presentation count towards the 10,000 hours? i.e. 20 participants in a two hour class would be 40 TA hours?

Answer: Group presentations can be utilized to reach several businesses at one time should they have similar needs. The group presentations can count towards the goal of 10,000 technical assistance hours.

Question: Is the number for 100 businesses receiving 100 hours of TA each a suggestion or a requirement? Is the primary goal to reach 100 agribusinesses with more targeted and individualized assistance, or to deliver 10,000 hours of TA?

Answer: Outreach and recruitment to 1000 small to mid-sized farms and agribusinesses and providing the 10,000 hours of technical assistance to a subgroup of 100 small to mid-sized farms and agribusinesses are both required activities as stated in the NGA.

Question: We feel that additional questions will arise as we develop our proposal. Is there any possibility that additional questions will be accepted after the deadline?

Answer: We are unable to respond to questions submitted after the question and answer deadline posted in the NGA.