

PASmart DEI in Building & Construction Trades Round 2 Grant Program

Bidder's Conference Q&A – August 13, 2024

Please Note: All questions and answers have been paraphrased.

Q: I noticed on slide 6 it mentions eligibility for previous PASmart grantees involving apprenticeships, does that extend to registered pre-apprenticeships as well?

A: Eligibility for this grant includes PASmart grantees with a registered building and construction trades apprenticeship or applicants with an existing registered apprenticeship in the building and construction trades. Previous DEI apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships that received round 1 are eligible to apply. The NGA has been revised to include registered pre-apprenticeships in the building and construction trades previously funded or unfunded.

Q: Can you speak more about the Evaluator? Does the grantee pick the evaluator? Or does the Department pick them?

A: If the Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO) request the grantee to work with an evaluator, the ATO will support the grantee in the collaboration.

Q: What are the dates the budget needs to align to?

A: The dates for the period of performance and the budget are December 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026. The

Q: Can this funding be used to help pay for costs associated with obtaining associates, bachelors, or master's degrees?

A: If the support in obtaining an associates, bachelors, or a master's degree is needed for upskilling and supporting new apprentices, the funds may be used for tuition reimbursement or related technical instruction as long as it is built into the budget.

Q: What is the timeline in which pre-apprentices must start an apprenticeship program?

A: Pre-apprentices are expected to enroll in the affiliated apprenticeship during the period of performance of the grant.

Q: Can this overlap with an existing PASmart grant - we have an extension for this fiscal year from a current PASmart grant, but it does not cover the majority of our expenses.

A: Yes, this funding may overlap existing PASmart grants.

Q: Can the funding be used to provide a stipend and/or supportive services to pre-apprentices?

A: Yes, the funding may provide stipend or supportive services to pre-apprentices as long as this is built into the project narrative and budget.

Q: If we are submitting a proposal that includes funding for a third-party evaluator as part of the grant, are there criteria that identify individuals or entities qualified to perform evaluations?

A: L&I does not have any criteria that identify individuals or entities qualified to perform evaluations. The grantee would be expected to use their professional experience to select evaluators with sufficient experience and capacity to perform a cost-effective evaluation of the program.

Q: We will easily surpass the goal of 20 pre-apprentices served, but what are the ramifications if the goal of 7 enrollments and matriculations is not met during the grant period?

A: If a grantee is having an issue with meeting the outcomes of the NGA, the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Office will work with the grantee to meet the performance metrics through a variety of measures. These measures may include the requirement to expand connections to establish more employer partners for added growth.

Q: Would graduates from the program prior to the grant period who enroll and matriculate into an apprenticeship during the grant period be able to be counted towards this goal?

A: Graduates from a program prior to the period of performance will not count toward the matriculation requirement.