

Pennsylvania's Workforce Professionals in Digital Infrastructure (WPDI) Grant Questions & Answers

Questions Open: January 6, 2026

Questions Close: January 23, 2026

Please note all questions have been paraphrased.

Question: Does this grant only cover the data center in Salem Township? Can grant funds be utilized for training, recruitment or research for a data center in other counties?

Answer: This grant is designed to develop the necessary workforce pipeline to support the data infrastructure in and around Luzerne County.

Question: Will additional grant opportunities become available for other counties responsible for launching new data centers? If yes, do you have an idea of when?

Answer: The Commonwealth intends to continue making workforce investments related to these types of critical economic development initiatives; all future L&I grant announcements can be found [here](#). To be contacted regarding future workforce development grant opportunities, please send your email address to ra-libwda-general@pa.gov.

Question: Please outline how the initial budget should be prepared to submit with the application.

Answer: The budget submitted with the application should include a detailed breakdown of costs for Phase I only. Remaining funds should be grouped under a single line item under Operational Expenses (B2), labeled "Phase II." Before beginning Phase II activities, a detailed Phase II GFRP, based on the approved state plan developed during Phase I, will be submitted to L&I for State Implementation Team review and approval.

Question: Are joint labor management committees eligible to apply for the grant?

Answer: Per [29 CFR T1635.2 \(g\)](#) a *joint labor-management committee* is defined as an entity that controls apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs, including on-the-job training programs. Because these committees oversee and administer training functions, they are considered educational entities for the purposes of this NGA. Accordingly, a joint labor-management committee member is eligible to apply as an applicant or to serve as a Regional Response Team member, as defined in the WPDI NGA.

Question: If a local workforce development board and a community college choose to partner together without competing against each other, is there any advantage to the local workforce development board applying as the lead applicant on behalf of the regional partnership.

Answer: The advantage in having a local workforce development board serve as the lead applicant lies in the speed of fund disbursement. Local workforce development boards already have an active grant agreement with the Commonwealth. This administrative efficiency expedites the award process and enables more timely disbursement of funds. The roles of lead applicant and partner do not affect how the grant is implemented, as either the applicant or any of the regional partners may take responsibility for leading objectives, initiatives, and/or reporting.

Question: One of the Regional Response Team partners must be “Organized Labor.” Are employers who are not affiliated with a union eligible to be a regional partner for this grant initiative?

Answer: Yes, Organized Labor entities and non-union employers are both eligible and encouraged to serve as Regional Response Team partners. Phase II activities specifically direct the Regional Response Team to “prioritize placements with employers who offer the following job quality elements as key features of the employment opportunities: strong wages, benefits, career advancement potential, and alignment with industry standards for worker protections and long-term stability.” While positions are not required to be union jobs or with union-affiliated employers, they must reflect the job quality elements and Good Jobs Principles outlined in the NGA.

Question: Do job placements under Phase II need to be with union employers or in union positions?

Answer: No, jobs are not required to be union positions or with union-affiliated employers. However, Phase II activities direct the Regional Response Team to prioritize placements with employers who demonstrate key job quality elements—such as strong wages, benefits, opportunities for career advancement, and alignment with industry standards for worker protections and long-term stability.

Question: What reporting mechanism will be used to report program information and track data and outcomes? Will CWDS be utilized?

Answer: The reporting and tracking requirements outlined below will apply. Reporting mechanisms may be revisited following submission of the Phase II implementation plan. If the

use of CWDS would support Phase II implementation, that determination will be made at that time.

- Documentation of deliverables as provided in the NGA
- Quarterly data collection using a Microsoft Forms Application
- Quarterly Narrative Report (QNR)