**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Governor’s Reserve Funds**

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

PY23 Request for Workforce Proposals

**Background**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reforms and modernizes workforce development. Seizing the extraordinary opportunity offered by WIOA, Mississippi created an innovative State Plan to produce a more efficient and effective workforce system in our state.

To further spur workforce innovation by the states, WIOA provides Governor’s Reserve Funds to support employment and training activities, as defined in WIOA Section 134(a)(3)(A), and for youth activities, as defined in WIOA Section 129(b)(2).

**Purpose**

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is seeking workforce proposals for the use of WIOA Governor’s Reserve Funds. Proposals should be in compliance with WIOA and align with the Mississippi State Plan. These proposals should demonstrate how the idea/concept will assist the State in meeting the goals set forth in the State Plan, as well as the WIOA law and regulations.

**PY 2023 proposals must target In-School Youth**. *It is important to note that WIOA funds can only serve ages 14-21 for In-School-Youth. Therefore, submissions for individuals younger than age 14 will not be considered.*

MDES will evaluate submitted proposals for allowability, innovation, and alignment with the goals of the State Plan. MDES will make recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

A request for workforce proposal is not an implied award of grant funds. MDES reserves the right to recommend project proposals that best meet the objectives of the Governor and the intent of the WIOA State Plan and will have the greatest economic benefit for the State.

The average award for workforce proposals will be $100,000.

**Instructions**

Proposals should use the attached template and **must** include the following information:

1. Identify the proposing organization and title of the activity.
2. Specify the contact information; include contact’s name, title, address, phone number, and email.
3. Identify proposed beginning and end date of the workforce proposal. The duration of the proposal should not exceed 18 months.
4. Provide cost of the proposal. Proposers are encouraged to use leveraged funds to support the effort. Proposers may identify resources such as foundation, private, State, and Federal funding to support proposal activities.
5. Provide a proposal narrative no longer than 4 pages that includes the following:
   1. Describe activities and services to be provided.
   2. Describe proposal’s goals and how they align with Mississippi’s WIOA State Plan.
   3. Describe measurable outcomes that will be delivered.

Proposals must include the attached Risk Assessment form completed in its entirety in the submission packet.

**Submission**

Proposers should submit workforce proposal forms in electronic format (Word or .pdf files) using the attached “Template for RFP” to James Hester at [jhester@mdes.ms.gov](mailto:jhester@mdes.ms.gov) and Robert DeYoung at [rdeyoung@mdes.ms.gov](mailto:rdeyoung@mdes.ms.gov) at the MDES Office of Grant Management. The subject line should read “Workforce Proposals for Governor’s Reserve Funds.” All proposals must be submitted by the close of business on **April 30, 2024**.