

RFA: Healthcare Workforce Retraining Initiative

OVERVIEW

On May 2nd, the New York State Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor (DOL), released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Health Workforce Retraining Initiative (HWRI). This initiative supports the training and retraining of health and public health industry workers with the skills necessary to obtain new positions, meet the job requirements of existing positions, or otherwise meet the needs and requirements of the changing health care and public health markets, including the diversity of the populations seeking health care services. Approximately \$18 million in funding is available over two years through this RFA.

The full RFP is attached. Applications are due on June 22nd.

FUNDING

Awards will be based on the maximum amount available in a given region as follows:

Region	Counties	Maximum Regional Funding Amount	Maximum Award Amount
Western	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming	\$526,458	\$67,784
Rochester	Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates	\$1,045,833	\$135,110
Central	Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tomkins, Onondaga	\$561,481	\$73,280
Utica/Watertown	Chenango, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Otsego, Oswego, St. Lawrence	\$66,643	\$8,015
Northeastern	Albany, Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington	\$483,425	\$63,662
Northern Metropolitan	Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester	\$861,535	\$109,920
New York City	Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond	\$12,866,527	\$1,588,115
Long Island	Nassau, Suffolk	\$1,908,098	\$244,144

Each project in each region will be considered a separate competition and will require a separate and complete application. For example, an applicant proposing to train two types of workers across three regions should submit six applications. Applicants may submit a maximum of 50 applications.

Organizations will determine in which region to request funding by:

- The county of the employer with participants to be trained; or
- The county of residence of laid-off workers to be trained.

Contracts will last for two years beginning on January 1, 2019.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Activities eligible for funding through this RFA include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment and intake;
- Remediation;
- Basic skill development;
- Counseling;
- Skill development and enhancement;
- Career advancement; and
- Expansion of educational capacity.

Funds awarded through this RFA may **not** be used for:

- In-service training provided by a staff development department, including training required by accreditation organization (with the exception of training for new mandates required by laws enacted since January 1, 2016); and
- Training for physicians and physicians in training.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must have a minimum of two years of training experience with the target population and must be one of the following types of eligible organizations:

- Health worker unions;
- Long term care facilities;
- Other health care facilities/agencies, including but not limited to:
 - Certified home health agencies (CHHAs),
 - Licensed home care services agencies (LHCSAs),
 - Long term health care programs,
 - Hospices,
 - Ambulatory care facilities,
 - Diagnostic and treatment facilities (DTFs), or
 - Providers licensed by the Office of Mental Health (OMH) or the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS);
- Health care facilities trade associations;
- Labor-management committees;

- Joint labor-management training funds established pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Taft-Hartley Act; or
- Educational institutions.

In addition, applicants are required to identify one of the following needs for training:

- Occupations with documented shortages;
- Expansion of educational capacity in shortage occupations;
- Targeted training for workers who have experienced or are likely to experience job loss, or are recipients of public assistance due to changes in the public health or health care system;
- New job certification or licensing requirements; or
- Emerging technologies.

Preference will be given to geographic areas and organizations that have experienced or are likely to experience job loss because of changes in the health care system. Additional preference will be given to projects that propose to provide training that will result in an increase in the supply of the following disciplines, and/or significant growth is projected in the following disciplines:

- Clinical laboratory technologists;
- Registered Nurses;
- Licensed Practical Nurses;
- RN Care coordinators or Certified Nursing Aides;
- Nurse Practitioners;
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners;
- Nurse Managers/Directors;
- Physician Assistants;
- Licensed Masters Social Workers;
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers;
- Minimum Data Set Coordinators;
- Home Health Aides;
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics;
- Physical Therapists;
- Occupational Therapists; or
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

APPLICATION

Separate teams will review the Technical and Cost proposals based on the following criteria:

- **Technical Proposal (maximum 79 points):**
 - Need for Training (24 points)
 - Capability and Commitment of the Applicant to Implement the Project (20 points)
 - Training Strategy (20 points)
 - Workplan and Performance Measures (25 points)
- **Cost Proposal (maximum 25 points)**

The technical and cost scores for each project and region will be summed and an average total score will be calculated. Applicants must receive a minimum average total score of 75 to be considered for this RFA. Awards will be made for applications with passing scores until the maximum funding amount for each region is exhausted. In the event of a tie score, the score on Need for Training followed by the score on Workplan and Performance Measures will be used to break the tie.

Timeline

Proposals are due on June 22nd. No letter of interest is required for this RFA.

Questions may be submitted to Susan Mitnick at HWRI2019@health.ny.gov by May 15th and should include a citation to the RFA section and paragraph to which the question refers. Responses to questions will be posted on the Grants Gateway on May 25th.