

Award Process

ARPA Workforce Innovation – Round I

Grant Program

December 14, 2021

Background

The purpose of this document is to provide interested parties with information on the processes used for awarding grants under the Workforce Innovation Grant Program.

Governor Tony Evers allocated \$100,000,000 to create the Workforce Innovation Grant Program (“Program”). The Program provides financial assistance to regional organizations to create and implement innovative solutions addressing the most pressing workforce challenges and restoring economic activity impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for the Program is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The Program will be implemented in two rounds. Approximately \$60 million will be awarded in Round I, and the remaining approximately \$ 40 million will be awarded in Round II. The application period for the first round closed on October 25, 2021. Applicants who did not receive awards in Round I may reapply during Round II. The application deadline for Round II will be announced in 2022.

For more information regarding the Workforce Innovation Grant Program, including the grant announcement, please visit the program website: [Workforce Innovation Grant Program | WEDC](#)

Applications/Eligibility

The Program received 168 applications prior to the application deadline of October 25, 2021, at 5:00PM CDT, each of which were reviewed for compliance with the grant announcement.

(71) seventy-one proposals were disqualified due to applicant ineligibility (*e.g.* duplicate application submissions, not having non-profit organization status, not meeting the intent of the program, not otherwise meeting minimum application requirements).

Scoring

The scoring rubric used to evaluate applications is set forth in section 5 of the grant announcement. Each grant application was reviewed by a panel of three reviewers. The scores of those reviewers were compiled to generate a final score for each application.

Awards and Budget Adjustments

Grants were awarded to the top twelve applicants based on final scoring. In some instances, the amount awarded to a grantee may be less than the amount applied for, due to certain requested expenditures being ineligible for funding or being outside the intent of the Program.

Prior to receiving grant funds, awardees must sign a grant agreement with the Department of Administration. Initial grant awards may be reduced during the grant agreement process based on further review of applicant budgets.