

**Work Ready Regions Round 4 Conference Call Question and Answer Section
October 7, 2010**



****PLEASE NOTE: The new proposal deadline is close of business on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1st 2010.****

Question 1: Will there be a new starting point for our Work Ready Goals?

Answer: What we will do is take a “snapshot” of your current standings at the beginning of the Work Ready Region Academy. Utilizing this information we will set end goals that you will work towards over the course of the implementation period. These goals are continually measured and you will work in that direction over the course of 18 months.

Question 2: Regarding the budget template found in the RFP, are the numbers and percentages on the template frozen, or an example of how you could distribute your funds?

Answer: The budget categories and amounts found in the RFP are the ones you should use when completing the budget template. You will notice that we have allowed one category “Unique activities and equipment” which allows you some discretionary measure when allotting your funds. Please keep your budgeting figures consistent with the dollar amounts found in the RFP.

Question 3: Is the Scorecard rubric found in the RFP an illustration?

Answer: Yes, that scorecard is an example of how the process works, how the process is continually moving forward. The numbers are set as three levels reflecting your progress forward. The scorecard helps to illustrate that Work Ready Regions is results-based and data driven. The activities used to reach your goals are unique to each region.

Question 4: Can you count people and their time dedicated to this region as a leveraged resource?

Answer: Yes, time can count as a leveraged resource. Anything that you think would qualify as a leveraged resource, go ahead and include as a leveraged resource on this proposal.

Question 5: Can you discuss some strategies for engaging out-of-school youth?

Answer: One of the best successes we have seen is working with the local Workforce Investment Act Centers. They are federally mandated to have activities for these groups and often have great ideas and could get involved in your region efforts. One of the most successful of our previous regions has been the East Central Energy region – they have been very successful at engaging out-of-school youth and working to get them industry certified and into job interviews.



Question 6: So we can focus on either in-school or out-of-school youth?

Answer: You can choose to concentrate your efforts on both groups. Obviously you will have your best successes if you can keep students in school rather than try and bring them back or have them complete school in a nontraditional format. We would love to see students choose to stay in school and work with our career pathways in that venue. Efforts should be made, however, to at least work with both groups.

Question 7: What is the total number of grants you plan to award?

Answer: While this answer is not set in stone, it is our goal at this time to award 5 Work Ready Region Round 4 grants.