

Population Based Strategies – WIOA Youth Programs

BACKGROUND

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County’s (WDC) mission is to champion a workforce and learning system that allows our region to be a world leader in producing a vibrant economy and lifelong employment and training opportunities for every resident. On February 22, 2022, the WDC released Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 21-04, “Population Based Strategies-Youth Programs,” with funding in accordance with resources coming from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The RFP was designed for community-based organizations that will conduct intensive, innovative community outreach to youth ages 16-24 who need training, employment and/or support services and who were impacted by the COVID-19 economic crisis. The contract awards will begin June 1, 2022, and end June 30, 2023.

This RFP represents a key strategy and investment aligned with the WDC’s Regional Strategic Plan. The overarching goal is to strengthen the region’s workforce development system by:

- Expanding racial equity and community-driven goals within the region’s unified workforce development system and strategy.
- Identifying specific marginalized communities currently underserved by the workforce system and explicitly targeting funding for culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services to reach those communities, including targeted outreach and services for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) young people, justice-involved, homeless, foster system-involved.
- Pooling and coordinating resources to close system gaps, eliminate redundancies and increase efficiencies.
- Expanding access to training programs and navigation services along career pathways.
- Creating a unified regional, coordinated, and efficient system for engaging industry.
- Leveraging public and private funding streams to ensure holistic, flexible services.

Proposals were required to demonstrate how services will be provided to address alternative learning modalities due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic implement innovative youth employment programs with an emphasis on the following: behavioral health, race and social justice, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership advisory. This RFP seeks to both support young people before they disconnect from formal education (in-school youth) and once they have disconnected from education or work (out-of-school youth). In addition to providing service demographic groups that are traditionally underfunded and overrepresented among out-of-school youth and low-income status relative to the total King County population:

1. BIPOC Opportunity Youth ages 16-24
2. Immigrants and Refugees and/or English Language Learners
3. Homeless Youth
4. Justice Involved Youth

The WDC conducted an RFP question and answer (Q&A) period between release of the RFP and March 22, 2022, during which time the WDC answered 34 questions submitted by prospective bidders, posted in Q&A digests on the WDC website. A virtual bidders conference was held on March 2, 2022, attended by 54 individuals representing over 30 organizations. Proposals in response to RFP No. 21-04 were due to the WDC on March 28, 2022.

THE RFP RATING PROCESS & ANALYSIS

The WDC received 11 proposals and were certified as compliant. An 8-person evaluation panel was established to review and rate the proposals, consisting of: WDC Board Members, staff from other Workforce Development Boards, community leaders, and local government staff with expertise in workforce development. The WDC used Cognito Forms, an online software platform, to release the RFP, receive the submissions of proposals from the bidders, and share proposals to the evaluators and receive scorecards.

After an initial orientation meeting on April 1, 2022, the panelists reviewed and independently rated the proposals. A final evaluation conference was held on April 15, 2022, where panel members reviewed cumulative proposal scores, discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals, assessed budget proposals, and consulted with one another to reach a consensus recommendation. Following the panel's recommendation, the procurement process was reviewed and certified by the WDC's Chief Executive Officer.

The evaluation panel would like to highlight the following strengths of proposals.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	Target Population ¹	AMOUNT REQUESTED
<p>1. Boys and Girls Club of King County</p>	<p>1,3 – In School Youth</p>	<p>\$190,000</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of youths being served for concise case management and service. • More opportunities work experience for the youth being served. • Directing more services to integrating new and innovative programs with the best interest of the youth being served. <p>Suggested Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full 		

¹ Target Population – Appendix (Page 5)

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	Target Population	AMOUNT REQUESTED
<p>2. Safe Futures</p>	<p>ALL – Out of School Youth</p>	<p>\$179,720.95</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incredibly detailed, they knew what they were going to do. Proven outcomes (Thorough around barriers to address intentions in the workplace and how they support youth can complete the task in 13 months) • Strong partnership with King County prosecuting office • Capacity to serve all target populations • Staff representative of the population served <p>Suggested Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial 		
<p>3. El Centro de la Raza</p>	<p>1 – Out of School Youth</p>	<p>\$196,535</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and services provided are intentional on the population being served • Detailed proposal budget and outcomes aligned to the mission and vision of the organization • Implementing pre-apprenticeship opportunities where population served are not highly represented i.e. • Intentional partnerships with pre-apprenticeship organizations i.e., ANEW, Ironworkers, and Northwest carpenters. <p>Suggested Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full 		
<p>4. King County – Department of Community and Human Services</p>	<p>1 – Out of School Youth</p>	<p>\$402,806.67</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of wrap around services • Emphasis on providing Mental Health services • Specific to high need Black and Latino communities • Integrating college and career opportunities for population served • Implementing community partners that is representative of the community being served <p>Consortium Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renton Technical College • For the Culture Black Dot Collective 		

	Suggested Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial
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NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	TARGET POPULATION	AMOUNT REQUESTED
5. Partners In Employment – Consortium	1,2 – Out of School Youth	\$450,000
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots organization: Leadership represents the community being served. • Living wage jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High demand sectors for jobs ○ Leverage resources and community providers • Community oriented – Have their presence in the community, involvement, and engagement <p>Consortium Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Machinists Institute • Congolese Integration Network • Cham Refugees Community <p>Suggested Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial 		

RECOMMENDATION

The evaluation panel recommends funding the following organizations for from June 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Organization	13-month recommended funding
Boys and Girls Club of King County	\$190,000
Safe Futures	\$170,721
El Centro de la Raza	\$196,535
Partners in Employment – Consortium	\$196,372
King County – Consortium	\$196,372
Total: Available Funding	\$950,000

ACTION REQUESTED

The committee is asked to consider and approve the above recommendations for contract awards. If approved, new contracts will begin on June 1, 2022, and end June 30, 2023.

APPENDIX:

Target Population (In School Youth/Out of School Youth)	
1	BIPOC Opportunity Youth Ages 16-24
2	Immigrants and Refugees and/or English Language Learners
3	Homeless Youth
4	Justice Involved Youth