

Accelerating Cyber Careers Question and Answers

Question: Should there be any prerequisites for individual recipients of the training?

Answer: The Solicitation does not define prerequisites for eligibility. Prospective applicants are encouraged to work with their employer and industry partners to understand hiring requirements and develop eligibility requirements that align with employer requirements.

Question: Can you provide more details on the expected content and format of the "letters of commitment" from the 5 required employer partners? What specific information should these letters include?

Answer: Letters of commitment should detail what the partner will commit to the project over the grant period.

Question: Just in case it hasn't yet been addressed, is it a single-spaced or double-spaced proposal narrative?

Answer: The narrative should not exceed 20 pages double spaced.

Question: If an employer expects to be reimbursed for some of their commitments (e.g., developing a cyber range), would that be acceptable to the State of Maryland? If so, would the employer be considered a subgrantee as well?

Answer: Yes, that would be an allowable cost. Any person or organization that will receive funding and is not a direct employee of the applying organization would be considered a subgrantee.

Question: How many participants does the program hope to train - is there a range?

Answer: The Solicitation does not identify a minimum or maximum number of participants trained.

Question: How much experience should the proposing organization have in the use, development, and running of a cyber range before the proposal is submitted?

Answer: The Solicitation does not include any minimum qualifications.

Question: Will there be any evaluation criteria or scoring preference given to proposals that demonstrate a strong track record of serving and advancing diverse cybersecurity talent?

Answer: Yes, preference will be given to applicants that devise creative strategies to serve populations traditionally underrepresented in the cybersecurity industry including women, individuals of color, and people with differing abilities.

Question: Is the plan to give multiple awards or one?

Answer: There is no set number of grants that will be funded. Labor's determination of award amounts will depend on several factors including but not limited to the number

and strength of proposals received and the amount of funding deemed reasonable for individual plans. Labor will also consider geographic diversity when making awards.

Question: Do the employers themselves need to be in the Cyber Security industry or can any company with Cyber Security needs and available positions be a partner?

Answer: Employer partners do not need to be in the cybersecurity industry but must identify the need to hire cybersecurity professionals.

Question: Are there any thoughts on partner company size or how many Cyber Security positions they have available? Or is it just that they do hire for Cyber Security and can provide insight and guidance while planning/implementing the project?

Answer: There are no limitations around company size or number of positions available.

Question: Are all public instrumentalities, including public corporations, eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, any public instrumentalities, including public corporations, are eligible to apply.

Question: Are there local non-profit organizations that provide support services interested in partnering with a proven cyber range provider?

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this Solicitation, Labor is unable to make these types of connections for prospective applicants but would encourage partnership with the entities listed in Section II.C.

Question: Do you have a specific goal of graduates you need to be placed in a job?

Answer: The Solicitation does not identify a certain metric around placement.

Question: Do you want the cyber ranges onsite and where (specific locations)?

Answer: The Solicitation does not weigh in on this but does note geographic diversity will be considered.