



WIOA TITLE I YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES

Request for Proposals

PY2023

New Hanover and Pender Counties

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. PURPOSE OF THE RFP

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit competitive proposals from qualified organizations for the delivery of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title I, Public Law 113-128 program services to Youth under the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board (CFWDB) in the following counties: Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender.

Specifically, the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board is seeking innovative proposals for services that will engage eligible youth in traditional and work-based learning activities, leading to the development of skills that match the needs of employers. Proposals must include planned services and activities designed to meet the needs of out-of-school youth, ages 16-24.

Youth Workforce Investment Changes 26 SECTION 15.12.(a) Workforce Development Boards created pursuant to G.S. 143B-438.11 shall include in their State-developed criteria to be used in awarding grants for youth workforce investment activities pursuant to Section 129 of the federal WIOA a competitive process that requires grant recipients to provide at least the following information as part of the application process and consideration of grant awards:

- (1) The extent to which the organization specifically focuses on serving at-risk youth, including youth who are at risk of school dropout or at risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion.
- (2) Whether the organization leverages community-based resources, including partnerships with organizations that provide mentoring services and private-sector employer involvement.
- (3) The use of an evidence-based program model by the organization with a proven track record of success.
- (4) The inclusion of rigorous, quantitative performance measures by the organization to confirm effectiveness of the program.
- (5) The deployment of comprehensive support services to youth, including addressing behavioral issues, emphasizing academic and career growth, and enhancing parent and family engagement.

B. BACKGROUND OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act supersedes the Workforce Investment Act and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to strengthen the workforce development system through better alignment of employment, training, and education programs. WIOA helps job-seekers access services needed to succeed in the labor market and match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in a global economy. WIOA strengthens the role of the One-stop Career Center system. Specifically, WIOA:

Aligns Federal Investments to Support Job Seekers and Employers: At the State level, WIOA establishes a unified strategic planning across “core” programs which include Wagner-Peyser Employment Service; and Title I of the Rehabilitation Act programs.

Strengthens the Governing Bodies that Establish State, Regional and Workforce Investment Priorities: WIOA streamlines membership of business-led, state and regional workforce development boards. The Act emphasizes the role of boards in coordinating and aligning workforce programs and adds funds to develop strategies to meet worker and employer needs.

Helps Employers Find Workers with the Necessary Skills: WIOA emphasizes engaging employers across the workforce system to align training with needed skills and match employers with qualified workers. The Act adds flexibility at the local level to provide incumbent worker training and transitional jobs as allowable activities and promotes work-based training, for example by increasing on-the-job training reimbursement rates to 75 percent. The law also emphasizes training that leads to industry recognized post-secondary credentials.

Aligns Goals and Increases Accountability and Information for Job Seekers and the Public: WIOA aligns the performance indicators for core programs and adds new ones related to services to employers and postsecondary credential attainment. Performance goals must reflect economic conditions and customers characteristics. It makes available data on training providers’ performance outcomes and requires third party evaluations of programs.

Proposers are strongly encouraged to follow the Department of Labor’s WIOA resource page for WIOA information and latest updates: www.doleta.gov/wioa.

C. BACKGROUND OF THE CAPE FEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) are 51% private-sector. The remaining membership is comprised of leadership from public agencies. Members include partners under the other Titles of WIOA: Adult Education/Literacy, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as Higher Education, Economic Development, Apprenticeship, Labor Organizations, and specialized Community-Based Organizations. As composition dictates, WDBs are the primary entity for convening and improving the public workforce system. The Cape Fear WDB (CFWDB) is appointed by the Cape Fear Workforce Development Consortium.

Mission: It is the mission of the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board to improve the talent pipeline for existing and emerging industry across the CFWDB region, thereby improving the social and economic quality of life in the communities we serve.

Vision: Our vision is a highly-skilled workforce that meets the demands of a global economy.

Strategic Plan: The Cape Fear WDB updates its strategic plan annually and shares with all interested parties.

Responsibilities: The CFWDB is responsible for the workforce development system throughout the Cape Fear region. This system must meet the needs of employers by preparing the workforce to meet their hiring demands. The system must provide reliable and valid information so customers can make informed decisions about training and employment; connect customers to other service providers in the system and the community; help customers access diverse funding sources for training; and provide quality job matching services for the job seekers and employers.

As outlined in Governor Roy Cooper's Job Ready initiative, Cape Fear Workforce Development Board adheres to three guiding principles for a successful North Carolina: education and skills development is the foundation to a strong and resilient workforce; an employer led workforce development system is key to the growth of a highly skilled and job ready workforce; and local innovation is critical to a dynamic and effective workforce system.

The Board has the responsibility to oversee and evaluate the NCWorks Career Center system and business services integration throughout the workforce investment area. As such, the Board is committed to the highest quality services and achievement of performance standards through outstanding customer service and continuous improvement. The CFWDB staff will be available to provide the successful proposer the technical assistance and capacity building needed to achieve the highest level of performance combined with outstanding customer satisfaction. The responsibilities of the CFWDB include:

Federal Connection: Ensure that Federal procedures and guidelines are correctly implemented; allocate federal workforce development funds; provide data and reports as needed to satisfy

Federal systems and participate in Federal funding opportunities that further the Board's vision for the NCWorks system.

State Connection: Ensure that State policies, procedures and guidelines are correctly implemented; allocate State workforce development funds; provide data and reports as needed to satisfy Federal and State systems and participate in State funding opportunities that further the Board's vision for the NCWorks system.

Local Connection: Comply with local government policies (the WDB's fiscal agent) and regulations; serve as the convener for workforce development in the Cape Fear Region and partner with local organizations on community needs.

Technological Connection: Ensure NCWorks Career Centers are equipped with current technology to better serve and assist all customers; manage the local information system for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs and activities.

Evaluation and Measurement Metrics: Approve customer satisfaction survey tools throughout the system and other evaluation tools; measure metrics set for NCWorks Career Centers to ensure quality services are being provided and continuous improvement; designate the successful operator of the NCWorks Career Centers; maintain a grievance procedure for customers to access if the Operator grievance procedures do not produce a resolution; meet with the NCWorks Career Center Operator regularly to listen to suggestions, discuss issues and resolve concerns; and monitor and report on quality, performance and cost effectiveness, through on-site visits, records review, evaluations, expenditure review and other methods as needed.

Outreach: Approve site location, facilities and equipment that contribute to a center of excellence and customer satisfaction; approve outreach materials funded by the Board or containing information about the Board's programs; provide NCWorks Career Centers with a common name, logo and signage to promote the identity of the NCWorks Career Centers and ensure connectivity between the NCWorks Operator and local and regional entities such as Chambers of Commerce, public education institutions, economic development entities, etc.

Performance and Compliance: Provide technical assistance on all policies, procedures and rules that impact the operation of centers and provide assistance as needed for compliance; develop and provide technical assistance to build capacity to help operator meet quality and consistency standards as well as to meet or exceed performance goals within the NCWorks system; ensure compliance with all rules, regulations and procedures issued by all funding sources.

Perform fiscal and programmatic monitoring for compliance in accordance with Federal, State and local standards; track and maintain documentation of each performance measure and approve regional education/training providers for inclusion on the State Training Provider List.

Fiscal: Ensure that administrative and programmatic costs are properly implemented; confirm that costs are correctly allocated to the associated funding stream; verify that NCWorks system costs are allocated according to the MOUs and provide technical assistance to the fiscal staff. The roles and responsibilities may be refined and changed as the WIOA regulations and procedures are changed by the US Department of Labor; State policy and requirements are created and implemented throughout the State’s workforce development system and local direction and procedures are adopted or revised by the Board.

The **Cape Fear Council of Governments** is the administrative entity and grant recipient for the Cape Fear Workforce Development Consortium. The Cape Fear Council of Governments through an agreement with the Cape Fear Workforce Development Consortium and the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board is authorized to receive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds and to administer programs. With consultation and direction from the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board, workforce development programs are designed through a “partnership” approach. Contracts entered into with successful WIOA bidders will be contracts with the Cape Fear Council of Governments. All contracts resulting from this RFP are contingent upon the availability of funds and are subject to amendment or termination due to the lack of or reduced funding. All parties contracting with the Cape Fear Council of Governments must comply with the USDOL regulations and any other interpretations published by the USDOL. Administration and operation of this program is subject to compliance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, State policies and procedures as issued from the Department of Commerce/Division of Workforce Solutions, and policies and procedures as issued by the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board.

II. SELECTION PROCESS AND TERMS

A. CONTRACT INFORMATION

Type of Contract

Bidders must propose a cost-reimbursement contract. A cost-reimbursement contract is one that establishes an estimate of total costs for the purpose of obligating funds and a ceiling that the contractor may not exceed (except at contractor’s risk) unless the awarding party agrees to amend the contract to provide additional funds. A line-item budget shall be based on all legitimate costs to be incurred by the contractor in carrying out the training activity. The contractor is reimbursed for the actual expenses according to the approved line item budget.

If any part of the work covered by this request is to be subcontracted, the grantee shall identify the subcontracting organization, and a subcontract agreement must be entered into between the two parties. Written approval from the Cape Fear Council of Governments – Workforce

Development prior to initiating any subcontract agreements is required. Copies of the agreements must be submitted to the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board.

Eligible Service Providers

Any governmental, education, community-based organization or non-profit agency engaged in public service. Private-for-profit agencies engaged in providing employment, training and educational opportunities for adults and/or youth may apply. Workforce development minded organizations with or without previous experience as a contractor are encouraged to submit proposals; however, only proposals from organizations that can thoroughly demonstrate that they have the ability to provide workforce development services within the Cape Fear Area will be accepted. Services offered shall be delivered through the established and designated One-Stop Delivery system known as NCWorks Career Centers and made available through the four NCWorks Centers. For WIOA contracts, efficiency in operation and cost effectiveness is a paramount policy consideration for the Board.

An entity may not compete for funds if:

- the entity has been debarred or suspended or otherwise determined to be ineligible to receive federal funds by an action of any governmental agency;
- the entity's previous contract with the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board was terminated for cause;
- the entity has not complied with an official order to repay disallowed costs incurred during its conduct of programs or services; or
- the entity's name appears on the convicted vendors list.

Outstanding Monitoring, Audit or Legal Concerns – respondents must disclose and rectify any and all outstanding monitoring and/or audit concerns from any of the respondent's other contracts prior to receiving a contract resulting from this RFP. Additionally, respondents must disclose any legal judgments, claims, arbitration proceedings, lawsuits or other legal proceedings pending or outstanding (unresolved) against the organization, its owners, officers, or principals.

Competency – respondents are expected to have the technical competence, knowledge and expertise in management and administration, the professional staff, and the administrative and fiscal management systems to accomplish the scope of work and the goals and objectives stated in this RFP and must meet high standards of public service and fiduciary responsibility. Respondents are responsible for being knowledgeable of all laws, regulations, rules, and policies of the specific funding sources involved and applying them in developing the RFP response.

Contract Period

The bidders selected will be awarded a one-year contract (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). An executed contract must be in place within the first sixty days of the contract period. No funds will be exchanged until after the contract is executed by both parties agreeing to the terms outlined in the contract. The CFWDB reserves the right to modify all contracts year-to-year. A

contractor must meet the performance requirements as outlines in the contract; however, the CFWDB is not bound to exercise additional contracts solely on stated performance criteria. Continuation is subject to future funding and legislative authority.

Contracts will be reviewed annually and will be extended for each additional program year based on the following:

- Funding is sufficient to allow an extension for a longer time period
- Performance expectations under the existing criteria were met
- There have been no serious issues related to performance or invoicing
- Services being provided remain valuable to participants or the need remains
- Contractor has met all external audit requirements

Anticipated Funding

All funding is contingent on the availability of federal funds and continued federal authorization for program activities. Any contract hereto is subject to the amendment or termination due to lack of funds or authorization due to statutory or regulatory changes. The below amounts are based on PY2022 allocations and take into consideration proposed infrastructure expenses.

- The amounts are for planning purposes only. The proposed allocation is subject to change based on actual PY2023 allocations and infrastructure costs. Additional funding may be made available to high-performing programs.
- Respondent’s proposed budgets must be within the amounts indicated and must be reasonably based on proposed service level and service delivery plans.
- Subsequent revisions and negotiations of final contract budgets may be required due to actual allocations received, actual infrastructure costs, and funding award decisions.

Bidders’ budgets should not exceed:

COUNTY	Total Estimated Funds:
New Hanover	\$285,000
Pender	\$140,000
TOTAL:	\$425,000

B. SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION

Below is the schedule of important dates for the PY2023 RFP cycle. The Bidder’s Conference is optional; however, it is highly recommended that interested parties attend the Conference. Virtual access to the Bidders Conference will be available. Regardless of attendance at the Bidders Conference, a required Intent to Bid form must be submitted by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023**. If your agency is a finalist for operating a program under this grant, you may be

invited to present to the Committee for further evaluation as listed below.

IMPORTANT DATES	
RFP Release	Monday, March 27, 2023
Bidders' Conference	Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Intention to Bid Form Due	Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Written Response to Bidders' Conference Questions	Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Proposals Due	Friday, April 28, 2023
Reference Forms Due	Friday, April 28, 2023
Committee Review of Proposals	Monday, May 1, 2023, through Friday, May 26, 2023
Bidder Presentations to Committees (if necessary)	Monday, May 22, 2023, through Friday, May 26, 2023
Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Meeting/Action on Awards for PY2021	Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Notification of Awards	Friday, June 23, 2023
Contract Negotiations	Tuesday June 27, 2023
Contract Start Date	July 1, 2023

Mandatory Intent to Bid

Respondents must submit an Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. They will be accepted in person at the Bidders Conference and electronically via email to Bjackson@CapeFearCOG.org or by fax. The Cape Fear COG fax line is: 910-395-2684. If submitted electronically, please call us at 910-395-4553 to confirm that we received your form.

Mandatory Reference Forms

Upon receipt of the Intent to Bid, respondents will receive three copies of the CFWDB Reference Form. The respondent must solicit references via this form. The Reference Form must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Cape Fear Council of Governments by **Friday, April 28, 2023**.

Bidders' Conference

There will be a Bidders' Conference for those organizations with an intention to bid. The Bidders' Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cape Fear Council of Governments at 1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401. Bidders may participate via Zoom. If you would like to participate telephonically, please request via email to Brian Jackson at bjackson@CapeFearCOG.org no later than Friday, March 31, 2023. The mandatory Intent to Bid form will be accepted at the Bidders' Conference.

Contact Information for RFP Questions

The CFWDB or staff cannot assist proposers with actual preparation of their proposal. During the period of time between the publication date of the RFP and the deadline to submit technical RFP questions, the CFWDB will only respond to technical questions about the RFP submitted by email. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

All RFP technical assistance questions will be answered at the Bidders' Conference and/or included with official responses to questions received at the Bidders' Conference, which will be posted on the CFCOG website. All proposers will be notified by email when questions concerning RFP technical assistance are answered and posted on the website.

During the proposal process, the individual identified below is the contact for any inquiries or information relating to this RFP. Questions concerning this RFP, the application process, or programmatic issues should be submitted in writing by email or addressed as listed below.

Ginger Brick, Director
Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
Cape Fear Council of Governments
1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401
gbrick@capefearcog.org

C. INSTRUCTIONS

General Instructions for Submission

It is imperative that proposals adhere to submission requirements. All proposals must be sealed and addressed as directed per these instructions. Failure to do so may result in a premature opening of, or failure to open, such a proposal. Sealed modifications of proposals already submitted may be considered if received at the office by the final date with notification.

Please submit one original that is inclusive of all required documents in a three-ring binder, with sections and attachments clearly marked and tabbed to separate. Please also submit four copies of budget documents and the Statement of work packet. Copies should be clean and legible. All documents must be delivered no later than **4:00p.m. Tuesday, February 28, 2023** to:

Ginger Brick, Workforce Development Director
Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
Cape Fear Council of Governments
1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401

Please also submit a portable drive with your documents or email a PDF version to gbrick@capefearcog.org with the subject "CONFIDENTIAL PROPOSAL" no later than **4:00 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2023.**

Proposal Format

Proposals should include all required items in the order listed in Section IV of this RFP.

Submissions must be numbered and labeled as indicated, with tabs. All forms should be executed completely and include all information requested. Forms are attached unless otherwise indicated. **Proposals that fail to include all applicable forms and information will not be considered.**

D. SELECTION AND APPEALS

Terms of Selection

The CFWDB reserved the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received. The CFWDB reserves the right to waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received. All solicitations are contingent upon availability of funds.

The CFWDB may accept any item or group of items of any offer, or award more or fewer slots at the same price bid, unless the proposer qualifies its offer by specific limitations.

The CFWDB may select a service provider based on initial offers received without discussion of such offers. Accordingly, each initial offer should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint that the proposer can submit to the CFWDB. However, the CFWDB reserves the right to request additional data or oral discussion or documentation in support of written offers.

Any proposer may be requested to make an oral presentation of their proposal(s) to the CFWDB. If requested, staff will schedule the time and location for these presentations.

The primary consideration in selecting organizations to deliver services will be the effectiveness of the organization in delivering comparable or related needs based on demonstrated

performance, in terms of the likelihood of meeting performance goals, cost, quality of training, and characteristics of participants. Selection in considering agencies or organizations shall also include time management of participant files and NCWorks.

Determinations will take into consideration such matters as whether the organization has:

- Adequate financial resources or the ability to attain them;
- The ability to meet the program design specifications at a reasonable cost, as well as the ability to meet performance goals;
- A satisfactory record of past performance in employment and training related activities, including demonstrated quality of training, the ability to provide or arrange for appropriate supportive services, retention in employment at follow-up, and earning rates of participants;
- The ability to provide services that can lead to long-term, unsubsidized employment for participants with identified deficiencies’
- A satisfactory record of integrity, business ethics, and fiscal accountability;
- The necessary organization, experience, accounting, and operational controls;
- The technical skills and time to perform the work; and
- An adequate plan to provide services and all related aspects of providing services as described in the offeror’s proposal.

Terms of Contract

After the CFWDB has determined the most qualified proposals, an attempt to negotiate the final terms of the contract will begin. If negotiations with the first applicant are unsuccessful, the CFWDB will stop all negotiations with the first applicant and proceed to negotiate contract terms with the second applicant. The same procedure will occur with the third applicant if negotiations fail with the second applicant. If an agreement is not negotiated with any of the first three applicants, additional applicants may be selected.

Appeals

Appeals by proposing organizations denied funding are limited to procedural appeals only. Such appeals shall be based solely on allegations of irregularities in the solicitation and awards procedure and not on the relative merit of the offers submitted. If a proposer believes to have been harmed by the violation or misapplication of procedure or regulation of this program, the proposer has the right to file grievance. This grievance should be filed according to the written procedures established by the CFWDB and may be obtained by contacting the CFWDB Director, Ginger Brick, by emailing gbrick@capefearcog.org.

E. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- This RFP does not commit the CFWDB to award a grant.
- No costs will be paid to cover the expense of preparing a proposal or to procure a contract for services or supplies under WIOA.
- Ownership of all data, material, and documentation originated and prepared by the service provider pursuant to the contract shall belong exclusively to the CFWDB.
- Proposals should be submitted in the format set forth in this RFP and should adhere to the minimum requirements specified herein.
- Formal notification to award a contract and the actual execution of a contract are subject to the following:
 - Receipt of WIOA funds granted under the WIOA plan;
 - Results of negotiations between selected service providers and CFWDB administrative staff; and
 - Continued availability of WIOA funds.
- Any changes to the WIOA program, the State of North Carolina WIOA Plan, or the CFWDB WIOA Plan, may result in a change in contracting. In such instances, the CFWDB will not be held liable for what is in the Offeror's proposal or this Request for Proposal package.
- Each offeror submitting a proposal will be notified in writing of the CFWDB's decision regarding its proposal.
- Proposals submitted for funding consideration must be consistent with the federal WIOA legislation, all applicable Federal Regulations, the North Carolina Division of Workforce Solutions policies, and the CFWDB policies and procedures.
- Offerors selected for funding must also ensure compliance with the following: USDOL Regulations 20 CFR Part 652, Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-21, A-87, A-110, A-122, A-133 or 48CFR Part 31, whichever is applicable.
- The CFWDB may require selected service providers to participate in negotiations and to rewrite their proposals as agreed upon during negotiations.
- Additional funds received by the WDB may be contracted by expanding existing programs, or by consideration of proposals not initially funded under this RFP, if such proposals were rated in the competitive range. These decisions shall be at the discretion of the CFWDB.
- The CFWDB may decide not to fund part or all of a proposal even though it is found to be in the competitive range if, in the opinion of the CFWDB, the services proposed are not needed, or the costs are higher than the CFWDB finds reasonable in relation to the overall funds available, or if past management concerns lead the CFWDB to believe that the service provider has undertaken more services than it can successfully handle.

- Any proposal approved for funding is contingent on the results of a pre-award survey that may be conducted by the CFWDB administrative staff. This survey will establish, to the CFWDB's satisfaction, whether the proposed service provider is capable of conducting and carrying out the provisions of the proposed contract. If the results of the survey indicate, in the opinion of the CFWDB, that the proposed service provider may not be able to fulfill contract expectations, the WDB reserves the right not to enter into contract with the organization, regardless of CFWDB approval of the Offeror's proposal.
- The CFWDB is required to abide by all WIOA legislation and regulations. Therefore, the CFWDB reserves the right to modify or alter the requirements and standards as set forth in this RFP based on program requirements mandated by State or Federal agencies.
- Programs must be operated according to the federal WIOA provisions and all applicable federal regulations, the North Carolina Division of Workforce of Workforce Solutions (DWS) policies and WDB policies and procedures.
- Service Providers will be expected to adhere to CFWDB procedures to collect, verify, and submit required monthly reports as well as invoices to the CFWDB.
- All grievances arising out of the WIOA or this RFP must be filed according to the Cape Fear Workforce Consortium's grievance procedures.
- All service providers must fully comply with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; Non-Traditional Employment for Women Act of 1991, as amended; with other applicable requirements imposed by or pursuant to regulations implementing those laws, including but not limited to 29 CFR Part 34.
- Service providers must accept liability for all aspects of any WIOA program conducted under contract with the CFWDB. Service providers will be liable for any disallowed costs or illegal expenditures of funds or program operations conducted.
- Reductions in the funding level of any contract resulting from this solicitation process may be considered during the contract period when a service provider fails to meet expenditure, participant, and/or outcome goals specified in the contract or when anticipated funding is not forthcoming from the federal or state governments.
- Service providers will allow access to all WIOA records, program materials, staff, and participants to local, state, and federal representatives. In addition, service providers are required to maintain all WIOA records for a minimum of three years after the last date of the program year of service.
- Selected proposer(s) shall give credit to the CFWDB, as the program activity funding source, in all oral presentations, written documents, publicity and advertisements regarding any activities funded as a result of this RFP.

F. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The operation and performance of all components will be in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the accompanying Federal Regulations; and any interpretations published by the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the State of North Carolina; the Nontraditional Employment for Women Act of 1991; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; and instructions issued by the WDB. [If new policies are implemented, all contractors will be required to operate in accordance with these mandates.] All contractors are directed to familiarize themselves with the WIOA Act to ensure compliance. Bidders are responsible for obtaining copies of the above listed documents. These and related documents can be obtained online at <http://usdol.gov>.

Fiscal and Administrative Management

A number of changes to the federal OMB circulars took place on December 19, 2017. New Uniform guidance was issued in 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 2900. The Employment and Training Administration issued TEGL 15-14 that gives guidance on this reform. In summary, 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 2900 replaces the following: A-103 & A-89, A-87, A-133 & A-50, A-110, A-21, A-110 and A-122.

Internal Financial Management

All proposers are required to conduct internal financial management reviews. The purpose is to provide adequate internal controls and ensure compliance with the following areas related to WIOA funds and services:

- Provisions of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and its regulations;
- Provisions of the WIOA Contract;
- Applicable state and workforce development board policies;
- Accepted financial management and accounting practices; and
- Compliance with 2 CFR 200

Internal financial management procedures shall be sufficient to prevent fraud and abuse. All reports of information creating suspicion of or instances of criminal misconduct must be reported immediately to Cape Fear WDB staff, NC Department of Commerce-Division of Workforce Solutions and USDOL. Internal financial management procedures must also ensure that auditable and otherwise adequate records are maintained which support all expenditures of WIOA funds and confirm adherence to policies regarding allowable costs and allocations of cost to proper cost categories. It is necessary to assure that accounting records are supported by source documentation for each transaction. In addition, records should be traceable to

documentation and maintained in such a manner as to provide a complete and accurate audit trail during any internal or external examination. The selected proposer shall document all internal financial compliance reviews. If applicable, the proposer will provide a copy of the organization's Cost Allocation Plan. For-profit organizations will need to provide any proposed profit within the budget document.

Internal Program Management

Contractors are required to establish internal program management procedures to assure compliance with contract requirements, delivery of high-quality services to eligible youth, and achievement of planned outcomes. Internal program management procedures must also ensure that auditable and otherwise adequate records are maintained to support the eligibility of all WIOA customers and confirm adherence to specific requirements and time limitations.

Internal financial management procedures shall be sufficient to prevent fraud and abuse. Internal financial management procedures must also ensure that auditable and otherwise adequate records are maintained which support all expenditures of WIOA funds and confirm adherence to policies regarding allowable costs and allocations of cost to proper cost categories. The WIOA contractor shall document all internal financial compliance reviews.

Audit Submission

As a recipient of WIOA funds, proposers must have an annual financial and compliance audit performed. The audits must be conducted in accordance with auditing standards set forth under the Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996 and revised OMB Circular A-133 at 29 CFR 95.26 for institutions of higher education, hospitals and other non-profit organizations and at 29 CFR 97.26 for units of state and local government. This requirement will be met by providing the Cape Fear Council of Governments-Workforce Development Department with a copy of the annual audit according to OMB Circular A-133. For all for profit businesses, proposers must have an annual financial and compliance audit performed under Generally Accepted Accounting Standards by an independent auditor. A copy of the audit will be forwarded to the Cape Fear Council of Governments-Workforce Development Department. The audit should be submitted within 30 days after the completion of the audit, but no later than six months after the end of the audit period.

Monitoring Procedures

WIOA Title I contracted staff must cooperate with any monitoring, inspection, audit, or investigation of activities related to WIOA contracts. These activities may be conducted by the NCDOL-DWS, USDOL, the Cape Fear WDB staff or their designated representatives. This cooperation includes access to, examination of, and/or photocopying of books, records, files, documents, property or equipment related to all aspects of WIOA-funded activities under this contractual agreement.

The CFWDB has developed a systematic monitoring system for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of WIOA funded programs. Monitoring is the quality control system whereby the CFWDB gathers and analyzes information to detect problems, identify strengths and weaknesses, and propose improvements to the program. Monitoring activities are conducted periodically to determine whether programs are in compliance with contractual agreements, WIOA law and regulations, and CFWDB policies and requirements. The CFWDB monitors performance, programmatic and fiscal activities. In many instances, the different types of monitoring are interrelated, and conducted simultaneously. Contractors must cooperate with any monitoring, inspection, audit or investigation of activities related to WIOA contracts. Monitoring visits may be announced or unannounced in accordance with Cape Fear Workforce Development Area policies. These activities may be conducted by the North Carolina Department of Commerce/Division of Workforce Solutions, the U.S. Department of Labor and the CFWDB, or their designated representatives. This cooperation includes access to the premises for the purpose of interviewing employees or participants and permitting the examination of, and/or photocopying of books, records, files, or other documents related to the contractual agreement.

Records Retention

The following records and documents must be maintained for WIOA participants and employees. The contractor agrees to make these records available for monitoring and review by the CFWDB and agrees to retain these records, subject to audit, for five (5) years from completion of services.

Release of responsibility to retain records after the five (5) year period will not be authorized until final resolution of all audit findings. In the event the contractor goes out of business or ceases to be an organization prior to the expiration of records retention responsibility, the contractor will deliver all records required to be retained by the Cape Fear Council of Governments-Workforce Development Department. The records shall be transmitted to the Cape Fear Council of Governments for acceptance in an orderly fashion with documents properly labeled and filed and in an acceptable condition for storage.

The following records and documents must be maintained:

- General ledger or equivalent;
- Cash receipts and cash disbursements journals/reports or equivalent;
- Bank statements, reconciliation, deposit slips and canceled checks for each bank account through which WIOA funds were received or disbursed;
- All contracts with the Cape Fear WDB including all amendments;
- All financial reports and documentation supporting requests for reimbursement;

- Payroll records including Individual Earnings Record, Employee Withholding Authorization (W-4), FICA reporting forms, federal and state withholding, Unemployment taxes, Employee Personnel Files, Time Records and Employee Time/Salary Allocation plans;
- Invoices and/or supporting data for non-payroll disbursements; and
- Customers' records including participant data forms, verification/documentation items, assessments tests and results, the Individualized Employment Strategy and documentation of outcomes.
- Monthly Participant and Financial Reports and Monthly Performance Reports; and
- Any other financial records or documents that are related to the contracted funds as requested by the Cape Fear WDB.

Insurance Requirements

Insurance: The service provider shall provide adequate on-site medical and accident insurance for all enrollees not covered by North Carolina's Workers' Compensation law. This coverage shall not include income maintenance. Contributions to a self-insurance plan, to the extent that they are comparable in costs and extent of coverage had insurance been purchased, are allowable upon prior approval by the State of North Carolina, Department of Commerce/Division of Workforce Solutions through the Cape Fear Council of Governments/Workforce Development Department. Requests for such approval must be submitted in writing. It is strongly encouraged that WIOA customers are covered by accident insurance while participating in WIOA-funded activities. OJT employers must provide proof of workers' compensation or comparable coverage prior to execution of the OJT contract. No WIOA client will be required or permitted to work or receive services or training in a building or within surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to the client's health or safety. All participants placed in a paid work experiences or internships, must be covered by workers compensation. OJT employers must provide proof of workers' compensation or comparable coverage prior to execution of the OJT contract.

Workers' Compensation Insurance: Workers' compensation must be provided to participants in programs and activities under Title I of WIOA on the same basis as the compensation is provided to other individuals in the state in similar employment. Workers' compensation benefits must be available to participants in work experience for injuries suffered while participating in work experience. If the work experience activity is not covered by worker's compensation insurance coverage must be secured for injuries suffered by the participant in work experience.

General Liability Insurance: General public liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$500,000 single limit coverage is required of all WIOA contractors except where a lesser amount maybe agreed to by the Consortium.

NOTE: Contractors that are state agencies or political subdivisions of the State of North Carolina are exempt from the public liability insurance requirement referenced above.

Automobile Insurance: WIOA contractors using motor vehicles in conducting services shall provide automobile insurance that clearly specifies that the Cape Fear WDB, Cape Fear Council of Governments and/or staff are held harmless against claims arising from ownership, maintenance, or use of said vehicle.

Bonding Insurance Requirements: WIOA contractors must meet bonding requirements as required through the OMB Circulars or other applicable regulations. Public agencies are required by the North Carolina General Statute to be bonded. Non-governmental agencies shall procure a blanket fidelity bond, position bond, or name schedule fidelity bond for all persons or positions authorized to receive or disburse WIOA funds. The Contractor must maintain all bonding in force for the period of the contractual agreement. The proposed contractor must submit a written notice to the Cape Fear WDB within fifteen (15) calendar days prior to any reduction in the limits stated on the bonding document. Similarly, the Cape Fear WDB selected proposer must provide written notice of any cancellation of the bonding policy to the immediately upon receipt of the cancellation notices.

Program Income Requirement

USDOL requires that all income generated under any WIOA contract shall be reported and used to further program objectives. Any organizations proposing program income must provide a set of measurable deliverables. Program income is required to be spent prior to use of WIOA funds.

For Profit

Proposers proposing for profit contracts must provide criteria/deliverables for profit and a schedule of payment as part of the budget narrative. All criteria proposed must be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART goals). Profit margins shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the Contract. Criteria for Profit will be reviewed and included in negotiating final contracts.

Authority to Re-Capture and Re-Distribute Funds

The WDB has the authority to re-capture and re-distribute funds based on the following criteria not being met.

- Staffing levels
- Enrollments
- Caseloads
- Spending levels

Property Management Requirements

The proposer agrees to maintain careful accountability of all WIOA purchased non-expendable property (property with a life expectancy of one year or more and a unit cost of \$500.00 or more) and to maintain an inventory of all properties issued by the Cape Fear WDB or subsequently acquired with WIOA funds. Acquisition of non-expendable property with a unit cost of \$500.00 (including taxes, shipping and handling costs) or more must be approved by Cape Fear WDB staff **prior** to the purchase. Any disposal of WIOA property must be according to applicable federal, state and local disposal procedures. Any revenues derived from the sale of property purchased with WIOA funds must be used in WIOA service delivery for the program(s) which funded the original purchase.

Any single piece of equipment that costs greater than \$5,000 and to be purchased with WIOA funds must be approved by the Cape Fear WDB and the NC Department of Commerce-Division of Workforce Solutions, depending on cost.

The WIOA contractor will be responsible for maintaining an accurate inventory of all WIOA property in their possession. A copy of the updated annual inventory shall be submitted to the Cape Fear WDB staff upon completion. The Cape Fear WDB will maintain a fixed-asset listing to be verified for physical location and serviceability at the WIOA contractor facility at least annually. Funds may be used to pay for or replace the missing property.

In the event property purchased with WIOA funds is stolen or destroyed by criminal act, the proposer will notify appropriate law enforcement officials immediately. The Cape Fear WDB must be notified within three (3) working days of discovering the loss or damage. A copy of the police report will be maintained as documentation of loss, and a copy forwarded to the Cape Fear WDB.

The proposer agrees to pay for or replace any property purchased with WIOA funds that is lost, damaged or destroyed through negligence.

Wage and Labor and Health and Safety Standards

Customers employed in work-related activities under WIOA must be compensated in accordance with applicable law, but not less than the higher of the rate specified in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 or the applicable State minimum wage law.

Health and safety standards under Federal and State law otherwise applicable to working conditions of employees are equally applicable to working conditions of WIOA customers engaged in work experience activities under WIOA. Workers' compensation insurance coverage must be secured for WIOA customers in work experience.

Budgets and Invoices

Respondents to this RFP should submit a budget that is included with the RFP up to, but not greater than, the projected available funding for each program. Once a proposer is selected the Cape Fear WDB staff will work with the proposer to budget those funds. The amounts on the funding chart are intended to be used as guidelines for proposers and are subject to revision based upon final notification of WIOA funding availability from the NC Department of Commerce-Division of Workforce Solutions. The budget spreadsheet document will provide a summary of the proposed cost by line item with additional worksheets to provide additional back up detail of projected budgets. If additional narrative detail is needed, please provide that as well. It is understood that customer expenses will be difficult to accurately predict at this time; however, a projection of these expenses based on plans for services to customers is requested. More detailed budgets will be developed after the proposer is selected and allocation amounts are more defined.

Proposed budgets must be within the amounts indicated and must be reasonable based on proposed staffing, service levels, and service delivery plans. The amount awarded will be determined on a competitive basis, but not necessarily based on the lowest proposed cost. Subsequent revisions and negotiations of final contract budgets may be required due to funding award decisions.

Since this is a reimbursement contract, the proposer will be expected to incur the costs for all program services and make payments on behalf of the enrolled customers, then report each month's expenses by the 10th day of the following month for each of the fund sources in the contract. The monthly reimbursement submission will include a line item invoice, with budgets, current month expenses, unexpended balances, and accrued expenses. As backup to the invoice, a summary line item expenditure reports and detailed line item expenditure reports by fund source that support the invoice amounts should be submitted each month.

Since the program year and fiscal year runs from July 1st through the following June 30th, final payment for each program year's WIOA expenses will occur with the June invoice that will be submitted by the proposer to the Cape Fear WDB during the month of July along with end of year Financial Closeout documents. Proposers are expected to expend at least 80% of their contracted funds by the end of each program year.

Although not expected, if any part of the work covered by this request is to be sub-granted, the proposer shall identify the sub-granting organization and a sub-grant agreement must be entered into between the two parties. Copies of the sub-grant agreements must be submitted to the Cape Fear WDB for approval, prior to execution of any sub-grant agreements.

Reports

Monthly and Quarterly Reports: It is expected that routine monthly and quarterly written programmatic reports will be compiled to include WIOA Performance Measures, NCWorks Career Center metrics (career services, career center traffic, business services, caseload management), and other key performance indicators as required by the CFWDB.

Financial Reports: Detailed Financial reports and invoices for reimbursement will be prepared and submitted to the CFWDB staff each month following the report month. Contractors are required to adhere to CFWDB reporting requirements and procedures.

III. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

A. ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM AND INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY

One-stop Delivery System

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the nation's principal workforce development legislation. WIOA establishes the one-stop delivery system, identified as the American Job Center Network, and in North Carolina as the NCWorks Career Center system.

The NCWorks Career Center is the cornerstone of our workforce system. Through our NCWorks Career Centers, job seekers can access labor market information and career advice, training services, job search assistance, and supportive services improve employability. Likewise, the NCWorks Career Centers provide employers with skilled workers.

Bidders will leverage community resources to create a seamless network of services that are easily accessible and relevant to customers. To have a meaningful impact on the quality and breadth of the NC Works system, bidders must be able to draw upon a resource base that extends beyond WIOA funding. Bidders should describe connections to other funding sources that will benefit participants and increase the cost effectiveness of federal funds.

Integrated Service Delivery

WIOA sets an expectation that partners within the career centers will work together to achieve common goals. Performance indicators outlined in WIOA do not differentiate between service-providers. When a youth jobseeker engages with NCWorks Career Center staff, all staff can provide basic information and linkages to the appropriate level of service requested. Since WIOA Youth is an eligibility-based program, it is critical that WIOA Youth staff be available and accessible to meet with potential and existing youth during career center hours of operation. Youth contract staff may also be scheduled to provide information and guidance to career center customers

through the Career Resource Center or the reception desk. It is important that Youth staff communicate their availability to the One-stop Operator of their NCWorks Career Center.

Functional Leadership: In the CFWDB Career Center integrated model, functional supervision will play a key role within the operations. To implement this supervisory approach, each full-service Career Center will have a Functional Leader (Manager/Supervisor) who is directly responsible for day-to-day operational activities. The Functional Leader will make operational decisions concerning customer flow, deploy staff as necessary to manage the customer flow, and be responsible for the overall quality and effectiveness of the center. The functional supervision model recognizes that the Title I contracting organization is considered the employer of record and has internal human resource functions that must be managed within their organization. Such functions would include final hiring and firing decisions, benefits administration, and time and attendance reporting. However, it should be noted that even in these critical human resource areas, the Functional Leader will have input and the opportunity to influence decisions. The One-stop Operator is a position under competitive bid, and responders to the Adult and Dislocated Worker RFP or Youth RFP may also bid on the One-Stop Operator RFP.

Team-Based Staff Deployment: In the Cape Fear NC Works Career Center integrated model, staff will be deployed in functional teams that work together to meet the needs of job seeker and employer customers. The specific functional teams that will operate in each NC Works Center at a minimum will include the Welcome Team, the Skills Team, and the Employment Team. The Cape Fear Workforce Development Board requires the contractor through this Request for Proposals to staff these functional teams with high energy professional staff who can deliver high quality services to customers and who also have the ability to determine the need for supportive services for employment and training, assessing availability, suitability, and identifying resources to meet those needs. Contractor should include staff for the following teams (cross-training should occur):

The Welcome Team: The Welcome team greets visitors, conducts initial assessments, completes NC Works enrollment activities, and makes referral decisions based on information obtained in the process. Enters all required and pertinent data elements into the NC Works system.

The Skills Team: The Skills Team works with job seeker customers on a variety of skill development issues including basic skills, technology skills, soft skills, occupational-specific skills, On the Job Training, pre-apprenticeship, and others. Enters all required and pertinent data elements into the NC Works system.

The Employment Team: The Employment Team works with job seeker customers on a variety of job searching activities, including resume development, interview preparation, job referrals, and others. Enters all required and pertinent data elements into the NC Works system.

Note: Depending on Center size and staffing levels, Title I staff may, at the One-stop Operator/Career Center Manager's direction, perform duties in all three functions. (Welcome Team, Skills Team, and the Employment Team)

This NC Works system is customer-focused, helps individuals access the tools they need to manage their career through information and high-quality services, and connects businesses with skilled workers. The Title I programs provide a wide range of employment and training services delivered in the NCWorks Career Centers including but not limited to: determining eligibility, enrolling clients into WIOA, assisting with job search, identifying ways to assist with skill development, work-based learning including OJT and Work Experience, classroom training and maintaining required documentation.

Required Partners under WIOA

WIOA defines One-stop Career Center partners. Each partner must provide access to its programs or activities through the NCWorks Career Center system, in addition to its other appropriate location(s). Required partners include:

- WIOA Title I – Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, JobCorps, YouthBuild, Indian and Native American program, National Farmworker Jobs programs/Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs
- WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy programs
- WIOA Title III – Wagner-Peyser Employment Services program
- WIOA Title IV – Rehabilitation Act Title I programs (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education programs
- Community Services Block Grants
- HUD Employment and Training Programs
- Local Veterans' Employment Representatives and Disabled Veteran Outreach Program
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance programs (TAA)
- Access to Unemployment Compensation programs (UI)
- Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) – Second Chance programs

Locations of Current CFWDB One-stop Career Centers

The CFWDB, in partnership with agencies who operate Workforce Development services, has developed a system of comprehensive NC Works Career Centers in the four-county region. The system design currently includes four full-service NC Works Career Centers. Programs must be easily accessible to both youth and employers. Service centers must be safe and youth friendly. Services must be sensitive and accommodating to diversity of age, culture, language and disability. Programs should meet the needs of at-risk youth populations and underserved communities while providing a broad range of services that meet the academic, employment

and development needs of young people. While Youth case management can occur within the community, youth should be exposed to NCWorks Career Center services and must be included in career center workshops, trainings, and hiring events.

Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Career Centers

Brunswick County

Primary:
5300 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28740

Access Point:
Brunswick Community College
Bolivia, NC 28422

Columbus County

Southeastern Community College
4564 Chadbourne Highway
Whiteville, NC 28472

New Hanover County

1994 S 17th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Pender County (Access Point)

Cape Fear Community College
Burgaw 28425

B. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Overview

WIOA Title I Youth is designed to help disconnected youth and job seekers ages 16-24 access employment, education, training, and supportive services to succeed in the labor market. WIOA legislation focuses youth program services on out-of-school youth, high school dropout recovery efforts, and attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials. WIOA also provides youth with disabilities the services and support they need to be successful in competitive, integrated employment. The program is designed to provide an appropriate range of services based on the needs of youth as they grow and mature.

The organization should focus on serving youth who have dropped out of school without completing a secondary credential and at-risk youth, including youth who are at risk of school dropout or at risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion; leverage community-based resources, including partnerships with organizations that provide mentoring services and

private-sector employer involvement; use an evidence-based program model with a proven track record of success; include rigorous, quantitative performance measures to confirm effectiveness of the program; and deploy comprehensive support services to youth, including referrals and linkages to services for behavioral issues, parent/family engagement. Under WIOA, program design must place an emphasis on academic and career growth.

Respondents' proposals should reflect age-appropriate activities and an age-based continuum of services. Proposals must include plans for addressing the differing needs of in-school and out-of-school youth. The intensity and methods of delivering WIOA services should be flexible to respond to the individual needs of youth as they age and develop. The Individual Employment Plan, as conducted with the assistance of the case manager, will determine the length of time a participant may be enrolled in the WIOA Youth program. A variety of workforce development activities should be available to help youth identify personal and vocational interests and begin to clarify long-term employment goals. Negotiating the transition from school to the workforce requires more than the acquisition of skills specific to an occupation. It is also necessary for youth to master the developmental tasks associated with cognitive, emotional, and social maturity that are critical to long-term employment success.

To serve in-school youth, the proposals should demonstrate linkages with the public schools, alternative schools and various training providers to extend and enhance learning opportunities as part of a year-round strategy. Services should improve academic achievement and build connections between work and learning.

Proposals must include planned services and activities designed to meet the needs of out-of-school youth, ages 16-24. Respondents are expected to build and strengthen partnerships with community organizations in order to effectively recruit, engage, and sustain out-of-school youth in WIOA activities. Based on an individualized assessment of needs, out-of-school youth should participate in services that reconnect them to learning and education. Participants should also provide work-based learning opportunities that enable them to acquire skills through work experience and other training that prepares them for unsubsidized employment.

For any program year, not less than 75% of the funds available for local areas shall be used to provide Youth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act activities for out-of-school youth. Under this solicitation, proposals that are designed to serve both in-school and out-of-school youth may plan to serve a minimum of 75% out-of-school youth and may serve up to 25% in-school youth. Likewise, proposed budgets to serve both in-school and out-of-school youth, must reflect at least 75% expenditures for out-of-school youth, and no more than 25% expenditures for in-school youth. The 75% requirement should be viewed as a minimum expenditure and enrollment level for out-of-school youth.

Additionally, WIOA requires a minimum of 20% of total funds be expended on work-based learning activities. This includes paid work experience (summer and year-round), internships, pre-apprenticeship, job shadowing, and on-the-job training.

Each operator is required to maintain WIOA Career Advisor timesheets and is required to track staff time by activity. Specifically, timesheets must reflect work-based learning activities to include the following: identifying potential worksites, time spent with employers to develop worksites/OJT, evaluations/visiting worksites, orientations for participants and employers, and classroom training or other required academic education components directly related to the work experience. Activities should be reflected in case notes and coded accurately.

Outreach, Recruitment, and Orientation

Outreach and recruitment includes, but is not limited to, identifying potentially eligible youth, working with parents and guardians to secure necessary documentation, and communicating with schools and community-based organizations regarding recruitment efforts. As part of orientation, all youth must receive information on all services available through the Bidder, including programs or activities provided by vendors and partners. Understanding that many out-of-school youth are disconnected from partner services, the bidder will be responsible for identifying underserved youth in the community. The contractor will make efforts to broaden the composition participation to include members of both sexes, the various race/ethnicity and age groups, and individuals with disabilities to reflect the demographics of the area covered by the contract. All recruitment brochures and information must contain the “equal opportunity employer/program” statement provided by the CFWDB. All material must also include the statement that “auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.” The contractor must comply with all related sections of 29 CFR Part 37.

Outreach and recruitment will be performed through coordinated effort between the contractor and local human service delivery agencies, especially those that are partners in the CFWDB NCWorks Career Centers. It is expected that the contractor will coordinate with human service agencies, including but not limited to: Public Schools, Literacy Councils, the Housing Authorities, Departments of Social Services, Veterans' Services, Division of Workforce Solutions, Health Department, Community Colleges, Community-Based Organizations, Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Blind, Title V programs, and the Department of Correction. Other agencies will be advised of the WIOA Youth services available in the county through newspapers, fact sheets, public service announcements, media or electronic linkages, and the NCWorks Career Centers.

Intake, Eligibility Determination, and Registration

Contractors are responsible for determining eligibility and for collecting and verifying all necessary eligibility documents. These verification documents must be maintained electronically in NCWorks Online. Electronic files are subject to ongoing review by CFWDB staff and it is recommended that contract supervisors confirm eligibility and review data entered. CFWDB staff will provide technical assistance on the eligibility determination process and how to use the WIOA database system known as NCWorks Online. Not all applicants will be ready for enrollment at the time of orientation. For those youth, providers should follow up and assist youth with referrals to relevant agencies.

Eligibility of Youth:

WIOA Youth Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen; and,
- b. Be within the eligible age; and,
- c. Comply with the military Selective Service Act; if applicable

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

For any program year, not less than 50% of the funds available for WDB areas shall be used to provide Youth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act activities for out-of-school youth.

1. Not attending any school (as defined by State law)
2. Be 16-24 years old
3. And be identified as one or more of the following:
 - a. A youth who has left secondary school without a secondary credential;
 - b. A youth who is within the age compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter
 - c. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is-
 - i. Basic skills deficient; or ii.An English language learner
 - d. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
 - e. A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under the Social Security Act, or in an out-of-home placement.
 - f. An individual who is pregnant or parenting
 - g. A youth who is an individual with a disability
 - h. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

IN-SCHOOL YOUTH

1. Attending school (as defined by State Law)
2. Between the ages of 16 and 24
3. A low-income individual
4. And be identified as one or more of the following:
 - a. Basic skills deficient
 - b. An English language learner
 - c. An offender
 - d. A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under the Social Security Act, or in an out-of-home placement.
 - e. Pregnant and parenting
 - f. A youth who is an individual with a disability
 - g. An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

Note that the term "low-income", used with respect to an individual, also includes youth living in a high-poverty area.

Proposals should address how the following requirements will be met as part of an overall WIOA youth services design:

Objective Assessment

WIOA requires that Youth Service Providers/Contractors administer or obtain a thorough and in-depth assessment of the academic level, skill levels, and service needs of each youth at the time of enrollment into WIOA activities. Youth Service Providers will use only assessment tools and strategies that are valid for youth. Initial/entry assessment will include: basic skills, work readiness skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, barriers to employment, family situation, occupational interests and aptitudes, financial resources and needs, supportive service needs, and developmental needs. This information should be acquired through various means, including, but not limited to: standardized tests, structured interviews, behavioral observations, inventories, career guidance instruments, performance-based or competency-based assessment tools, and assessment results from another service provider (school or agency) if the assessment is relevant and reliable. For basic academic skills, the CFWDB requires that contractors use the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS). Other assessment tools should be utilized for assessing career interests and aptitudes.

Assessment instruments, especially on-line tools, used to measure aptitudes, learning styles, life skills, or other skills must be adequately researched by contractor staff and approved by

CFWDB staff prior to use with participants. Assessments must be objective, conform to widely accepted standards for validity and reliability, and be age-appropriate for the participant. All staff performing assessments must have adequate training on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of test results. Information collected from the assessment process serves as the basis for individualized services. In order to achieve the educational and employment outcomes desired for each youth, assessments should be periodic part of case management. Contractors must track the progress of each participant to measure the attainment of skills, fulfillment of personal goals, and the achievement of planned objectives for each youth.

Individual Employment Plan (IEP)/ISS

All participants receiving WIOA Title I Youth program services will have a written, individualized plan of services and activities, based upon the entry assessment information. The Individual Employment Plan (IEP) should be developed by the case manager and the participant. The IEP should include relevant history, present circumstances, and short and long-term goals, and all supportive services planned to be provided to support participation. More importantly, the service plan should be flexible and responsive to the changing needs of the participant throughout participation in WIOA activities. Each service plan will outline the appropriate mix of services, the sequence and timeline of delivery, and the appropriate benchmarks toward objectives. Each IEP will identify an employment goal at minimum, and a performance goal, selected learning objectives, and preparation for unsubsidized employment as appropriate. The IEP will set clear and realistic goals for educational advancement, entry into employment in a targeted industry, and continued learning and development. The goal is to develop an appropriate service strategy to meet the individual needs of each participant.

The IEP should be reviewed with the participant every three months at minimum to gauge progress toward objectives but may be updated more frequently if appropriate when objectives and goals are achieved. The periodic evaluation should include, when applicable, the participant's progress toward measurable academic skills gains, improvements in work readiness and occupational skills, and the adequacy of supportive services provided. The IEP will be used as the basic instrument for the CFWDB to monitor the appropriateness of the services provided to the participant, including referrals to other programs for specified activities. Training provided by the service provider should be in accordance with the IEP. The IEP is an informal "contract" between the WIOA service provider and the client and serves to support clients in establishing and attaining meaningful career goals.

Because WIOA resources are generally insufficient to provide the full range of training or support services identified as needed in the IEP, every reasonable effort to utilize other community resources to arrange academic, work-readiness, occupational skills training, and supportive services for the participant. WIOA service providers shall utilize the IEP document in NCWorks Online. Technical Assistance and training will be provided by CFWDB staff.

Comprehensive Case Management

The WIOA Service Provider will provide comprehensive case management services to youth as part of the year-round strategy to support and assist youth in attaining meaningful outcomes. Staff is expected to work closely with youth to provide support and guidance, address needs and barriers, solve problems, serve as role models, and assist in the attainment of the objectives and goals agreed upon in the IEP. The IEP will be reviewed and updated by staff at a minimum every three months to arrange for updated services, identify and address any new concerns, and document progress made during participation. Regular personal contact between a Career Advisor and the young person is essential. Based on the case management relationship, the youth should be aware that he/she has support and accountability in working to achieve his/her personal goals. Primary casemanagement functions are services coordination, advising and counseling, advocacy, follow-up, and accurate and timely record keeping.

All WIOA staff are expected to adhere to professional standards of client confidentiality. Staff with access to WIOA youth records and other confidential information are expected to safeguard such information. No staff member, volunteer, or other person associated with the WIOA Service Provider shall release or disclose information concerning the youth without securing a signed release of information authorization prior to the release of the records. This includes verbal, written or electronic sharing of records or personal information. Exchange of information is generally to be used for eligibility verification, coordination of services and activities, tracking progress and participation, securing additional services, and for follow-up purposes.

WIOA Data Validation and Record Keeping

The US Department of Labor has issued a data validation policy that establishes record keeping requirements to ensure the accuracy and integrity of information collected and reported on WIOA activities and program outcomes. The federal policy mandates that states "demonstrate the validity of reported data," and conduct data validation annually. North Carolina has set statewide policy for data validation. Cape Fear staff will provide staff training and ongoing technical assistance for data validation.

Information and Referrals

NCWorks Career Center staff should be able to provide basic information regarding WIOA Youth program services and eligibility, but contract staff is responsible for determining eligibility and suitability. Youth who are not eligible for Title I, or those who can be better served by another agency or program, should be referred to appropriate agencies and/or organizations in the community. Contractors should use their relationships with other human-service agencies to cross-refer youth and track referrals.

WIOA Service Providers will refer eligible youth to other educational, employment, training,

community agencies, and/or human service organizations that have the capacity to serve them.

This requirement applies to youth who may benefit from services other than, or in addition to, WIOA-funded activities. Records of these referrals and the outcome of the referral should be recorded in case/activity progress notes.

Employer Engagement

Employer engagement serves as a centerpiece in the development of effective career pathways and work-based learning opportunities for youth. Rapport must be established with local and regional employers to promote in-demand occupations and to build connections between work and learning. Contractors must engage industry and coordinate work-related activities for program participants. Business engagement should build relationships with employers to secure work-based learning opportunities such as internships, job shadowing, work experience, on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and unsubsidized job placements for program participants. In order to assist with these placements, contractors will be expected to meet monthly with the CFWDB Business Services Representative to review the work-readiness of participants. Career Advisors will also be responsible for reporting outcomes and retention of individuals placed in subsidized employment to the Business Services Representative monthly.

Required Elements

Proposals must include the Five Components of Service (Education, Career Pathways, Career Experience, Leadership Development, and Mentoring) as well as the 14 program elements essential to WIOA that will fall into these Five Components. Proposals are to be submitted to demonstrate the full extent of what each provider can individually offer.

In order to support the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, entry into post-secondary education, and career readiness for participants, the program must provide fourteen (14) elements. Definitions of these program elements are available in the WIOA law. The 14 elements that must be present in all WIOA youth programs are:

- a. Tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies
- b. Alternative secondary school services or dropout recovery services
- c. Paid and unpaid work experiences that have as a component academic and occupational education which may include:
 - i. Summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year
 - ii. Pre-apprenticeship programs

- iii. Internships and job shadowing
- iv. On-the-job training opportunities
- d. Occupational skills training, which shall include priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized post-secondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the area
- e. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster
- f. Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities
- g. Supportive services
- h. Adult mentoring for a period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of no less than 12 months
- i. Follow up services for no less than 12 months after the completion of participation
- j. Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- k. Financial literacy education
- l. Entrepreneurial skills training
- m. Services that provides labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the area
- n. Activities that help youth prepare for and transition to postsecondary education and training

Performance Expectations

Each contractor for Title I Youth services is expected to meet or exceed all negotiated performance goals. The WIOA system-wide performance outcomes were developed to simplify and consolidate performance measures across many federal grants. Coordination of services with partner agencies and accurate data management are important to performance outcomes. Contractors should emphasize retention in program services until participants have reached the goals identified in their service strategy plan.

USDOL Performance Indicators:

The Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Performance Measures for PY2023 are listed below:

WIOA Performance Measure	PY2023 Goal
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit	72.5%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit	74.5%
Credential Attainment within 4 Quarters after Exit	48%
Median Earnings	\$3,400
Measurable Skills Gains	46.5%

**NOTE-Baseline Indicators- "Determination of financial sanctions will occur only after 2 years of complete data are available for inclusion of the statistical adjustment model, and after the model has been utilized to set targets for two FULL program years" TEGL No. 26-15*

IV. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND REQUIRED FORMS/DOCUMENTS

A. RESPONSE PACKAGE

Please clearly label and tab each required document with corresponding indicator as listed below:

Attachment	Title	Instructions
A	Proposal Cover Sheet	complete all fields on form with detail
B	Financial Management Form	identify compliance staff
C	Planned Outcomes Data Form	complete all fields on form with detail
D	Assurances and Certifications	requires authorized signature
E	Statement of Compliance	requires authorized signature
F	Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion Lowered Tier Transactions	requires authorized signature
G	Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace	
H	Job Descriptions	direct and indirect staff, list counties
I	RFP Budget Form	*Budget Summary *Support Worksheets *Budget Narrative of all program costs
J	Proposal Grading Matrix	for informational purposes only

B. OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please clearly label and tab each required document with corresponding indicator as listed below:

Attachment	Title	Instructions
AA	Federal Identification	
BB	Year-end Financial Statement and Audit	most recent
CC	Agency Grievance Procedures	
DD	Bond Coverage	or explanation of planned coverage
EE	Agency Personnel and Travel Policies	
FF	Current Organization Chart	include Equal Opportunity Officer
GG	Charter and Bylaws of Organization	
HH	Cost Allocation Plan	include agency indirect cost plan
II	Certificate of General Liability Insurance	
JJ	Certificate of Workers' Compensation insurance	
KK	Current Board List	

C. STATEMENT OF WORK NARRATIVE/REQUIRED QUESTIONS

Statement of Work:

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Provide a two-page executive summary of your proposal describing the targeted population, services to be provided, resources to be used (including financial), numbers to be served, expected outcomes, cost per participant, and the projected overall cost. This executive summary must accompany your responses to the questions below. Limit this summary to a maximum of two pages, 12-point font, normal margins, and single spaced.

***A separate executive summary must be submitted for in-school youth and out-of-school youths services, if applicable.**

II. QUESTIONS:

For each question below, please provide a thorough but concise response. Use one page, 12-point font, normal margins, and single spaced. The responses will be considered part of your Statement of Work and will be used for evaluation of your proposal and, if awarded, for negotiating program design for PY2023.

EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY:

1. Describe how the proposed program will fit into your organization's mission and goals.
2. Describe the expertise of staff and their ability to achieve program goals with the population proposed. Include your experience and results providing similar services to similar populations.
3. What facilities will be used in program delivery? Are the facilities accessible and welcoming for youth?
4. Provide a brief overview of proposed program. Detail which of the project types your program will be delivering, include the targeted population and primary geographic area(s) to be served. If your agency is proposing a regional approach, how will you ensure adequate services in those counties?
5. What additional expertise does your agency possess that will enhance utilization of this grant for clients?

PROGRAM DESIGN:

6. Describe the client experience. Include processes and tools used for outreach, recruitment strategies, orientation, objective assessment, referrals and/or provision of supportive services, employment planning, etc. Describe how participant goals will be developed, evaluated, and coordinated with the appropriate agencies and how you will measure the success of the client experience.
7. Detail the standards or expectations you will require of youth participating in the program. What innovative opportunities will your agency provide to youth ages 16-24? Please provide examples of youth workshops to be conducted throughout the program year.
8. Describe how your agency will operate in collaboration with the NCWorks Career Center and mandatory/optional partners? Include how will your agency staff the NCWorks Career Center and ensure the delivery of Integrated Services with a customer-centered approach to serving youth?

9. Describe your understanding of Work-based Learning (WBL), including work experience, On-the-Job Training (OJT), job shadowing, etc. and the expertise of staff and their ability to work with employers to develop work-based learning opportunities for youth. Provide a detailed explanation of how your agency will maximize WBL opportunities for youth?
10. Describe your understanding of Certified Career Pathways, school career pathways, curriculum programs, and short-term learning programs for your community. How will your agency connect youth to appropriate training options and monitor their success through completion and into employment? How will you provide support to youth who are deficient in basic skills or face other barriers to success in education?
11. Explain the type of work-based learning and career development opportunities that will be offered to youth. Describe how these activities will be linked to learning objectives. Include how you will ensure that employer-defined skills and labor market information are used to guide career development activities.

PERFORMANCE:

12. Explain how you will utilize the DOL indicators to engage youth and support their attainment of measurable skills gains, credentials, and employment. Describe previous success in meeting this, or similar, performance. Explain the relationship between your proposed program design and performance.
13. Describe how the contractor will utilize the Youth Incentive Policy to keep youth engaged in the youth program using non cash incentives.
14. Describe your agency's internal processes for training staff to accurately enter data and documentation. Include your agency's procedure for routine internal monitoring, reviewing reports, and continuous improvement. Explain your experience with NCWorks Online.

PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS:

15. Describe your agency's relationships within the NCWorks Career Center and throughout the community. Include collaborative partnerships with agencies who serve youth and explain any results from previous collaboration.
16. Describe how you will leverage strategic partner relationships to maximize program resources, reduce duplication of services, and achieve program objectives.

EMPLOYER-DRIVEN SERVICES:

17. Explain the expertise of staff regarding the local/regional labor market. How will your agency ensure current knowledge of existing and emerging hiring needs and how local labor market/employment information (including job vacancies, job skills necessary foremployment, earnings, and demand occupations) be provided to customers.
18. Describe how you will utilize labor market information (LMI) to provide sound career advice to meet the hiring needs of regional business and industry.
19. Describe relationships with private-sector employers, employment agencies, companies who offer internships, etc. to youth and successful results from previous collaboration. Describe your agency's connection with professional organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and your plan to leverage those relationships. What staff will your agency dedicate to employer outreach, the development and management of OJT and WEX contracts, follow up with employers, etc.?

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:

20. What internal controls will be employed by your agency to ensure fiscal compliance and accountability, including the relationship between expenditures, data entered into NCWorks Online, and invoices.
21. Describe your agency's experience in managing federal grants or grants with similar fiscal control requirements. What expertise and/or fiscal practices enable your agency to manage this grant.

22. Describe how the design of your program maximizes the efficiency of funds to maintain a low Cost-per-Participant and achieve customer goals.

III. YOUTH FOURTEEN PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Describe how you will provide each of the 14 Required Elements. Identify any resources your program will use to support and enhance the delivery of these elements. Detail how your program will identify each participant’s individual need for the described services. Describe how you will coordinate services to ensure performance towards program goals will be met. Indicate in chart below, WIOA funded/budgeted elements and/or where appropriate other agency referrals for services will take place.

WIOA Youth Program Elements	Will Provide	Will Refer (list agency)
1. Tutoring, study skills training instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies that lead to completion of secondary school diploma or its equivalent or for recognized post-secondary credential;		
2. Alternative school services		
3. Paid and unpaid work experiences which may include: a. summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available during the school year; b. pre-apprenticeship programs; c. internships and job shadowing; and d. OJT training		
4. Occupational skills training;		
5. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;		
6. Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social and civic behaviors;		
7. Supportive Services		
8. Adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;		
9. Follow-up services for a period not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, as appropriate;		
10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referrals, as appropriate;		
11. Financial literacy education;		
12. Entrepreneurial skills training;		
13. Services that provide labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sector or occupations available in the area, such as career awareness, career counseling, and career exploration services;		
14. Activities that help youth prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and training.		

This concludes the RFP document. Download “Required Forms” to complete your proposal packet for submission.