

Question: What is the working definition of the following terms for the purposes of this grant. What is the difference between these definitions?

- "Skill-building internship"
- "Pre-apprenticeship training"
- "Apprenticeship training"

Answer: The purpose of this RFP is to expand the number of trainers funded to provide RENEW job skills training services. Eligible organizations are limited to community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, training institutions, colleges, vocational training providers, trade associations, labor unions, professional associations, and workforce development entities. Proposals which include partnerships and collaboration among eligible organizations are encouraged. Current RENEW training partners are not required to respond to this RFP.

In RENEW, the goal of all training (classroom, internship, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship) is to ensure RENEW participants are fully prepared to meet the demands of today's workplace. For this reason, training should function as a continuation of existing green job skills classroom learning, be supervised by certified and qualified training instructors, and include participant-specific learning objectives.

Registered apprenticeship programs with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry are WIA certified. Labor unions, trade associations, union training centers and their affiliates provide core skills training to labor union apprentices.

Pre-apprenticeship programs are limited in duration, lead to industry-recognized credentials, and function as a "bridge" between classroom training and union apprenticeships. Pre-apprenticeship training proposals in RENEW will focus on hard-skills, in-demand training, as outlined in the RFP.

Internships focus on extending classroom-based credentialing to the work site, in collaboration with employer partner(s). Internships build, enhance, and/or strengthen core work skills required by employers, in order to perform a specific set of job tasks. Internships may be proposed separately, or in conjunction with, apprenticeships and/or pre-apprenticeships.

RFP applicants will define these training terms within their proposals, based on the scope of proposed services, trainer constituencies, and trainers' area of expertise. Each eligible applicant agency and/or collaborating group of applicants must substantiate their organizational and/or collective ability to carry out detailed training plans, providing internships, pre-apprenticeship training, and/or apprenticeships to RENEW participants. Applicants will describe how such training is industry-recognized, driven by current labor market demands, and participant-centered.

All proposed training will establish a pipeline between existing RENEW green training coursework and labor unions, professional associations, and employers.

Question: Does the RENEW project place a different value on these three different types of services? Does the RENEW project intend to compensate at different rates for these three different types of services?

Answer: Through this RFP process, applicants will establish a proposed “cost per participant” for services described in their applications.

Question: Is the provision of these services limited to currently enrolled RENEW participants?

Answer: Yes

Question: Is there capacity available among existing ESPs to enroll additional RENEW participants, or have all RENEW slots been filled?

Answer: RENEW currently has limited enrollment availability; please contact RENEW Employment Service Providers to determine current program slot availability. A listing of RENEW Employment Service agencies is available at www.renewmn.com.

Question: I looked over the RFP and did not find information regarding the number and amount of awards you expect to support.

Answer: There is no pre-established goal for the number of training service contracts awarded, or for the dollar amount of each service contract. The number and amount of awarded contracts will be determined by the RFP reviewers and the RENEW administrative team.

Question: XXXX is currently a RENEW skills training provider and lead abatement is currently an embedded part of our Construction Skills training course. Would we still need to apply if we wanted to pull it out and offer it as stand alone course under the energy efficiently building and construction category?

Answer: You do not need to apply, since you are an existing RENEW training partner and your training is currently being offered in RENEW.

Question: Can existing partners add new courses if we have any or is there something specific you are looking for with the RFP?

Answer: The goal is to enhance existing courses with work-related, hard-skills training programs. RENEW is not planning to add new courses at this time.