Economic Recovery Act
Youth Program RFP
Questions and Answers
And Additional Critical Information

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1) Does this RFP replace the Year-Round WIA Youth RFP?
The Economic Recovery Act Youth RFP does not replace the Year-Round WIA Youth RFP. METP releases the Year Round Youth RFP every two years, the last time being 2008. The ERA Youth RFP was released on March 13, 2009 due to the one-time stimulus allocation that WSA 10 will receive.

2) On the General Conditions page many "may's", "yet to be determine's" and undefined conditions (1,7,8,9,11) – can these be clarified or are these answered during negotiations?
Point 1 – This is standard language.
Point 7 - At the release of the RFP, federal policy was not known. At this point, it still has not been fully determined how and if the required paperwork will be streamlined or what exactly will be tracked for purposes of the ERA program. The "yet to be determined" statement means it was not known, but at this point, I believe I can safely say that we expect WIA paperwork *will* be streamlined for the ERA program, although we still do not know the exact expectations/requirements.
Point 8 - Because it was not known what would need to be tracked or expected via MIS/WF1 – we wrote "may" be expected to complete and enter MIS paperwork. At this point, I can safely say that vendors will be expected to enter program information into our Management Information System, WF1.
Point 9 – We have had challenges with some organizations that put youth on a payroll without confirming they are eligible to work or put youth in a program without making certain they are eligible for the program. As we plan for the ERA program, we *may* create a document that tracks eligibility and that METP staff will utilize during a monitoring session (prior to the start of the ERA program) – this will help us determine which youth are actually ready (eligible) to be in the program. This is not an extra step that we want to take, but past experience has made this an option that we need to consider, in order to make certain that the youth we are funding are truly eligible youth.
Point 11 – I can safely add at this point, that we hope to create an ERA work readiness measure that organizations can obtain in a variety of ways (meaning they can utilize their normal WR curriculum to obtain the measure). We have not decided what it will look like, but, again, it should be obtainable by any experienced employment and training provider. The job placement piece means that work needs to be a part of the summer or year round ERA experience.

3) Item 13 on the General Condition's page: It sounds like current year-round WIA performance standards are being referred to; yet the RFP is called the Economic Recovery Act RFP. Standard WIA performance, follow-up are not applicable to ERA funding, but we understand regular WIA funding will still have the seven WIA performance standards will apply to this RFP, and what specifically will those be?
Local areas (WSA's) have been given the flexibility to determine some ERA program parameter's, therefore the questions reflected in the RFP are questions that WSA 10 feels are important in helping determine quality projects (and they may, at times, sound similar to the standard WIA measures).
As of this writing, the state has submitted waivers to the Department of Labor that requests to waive the 7 WIA statutory youth performance measures for youth ages 18-24 who are served with ERA funds and who participate in work experience only during non-summer months. This means that, if DOL approves the waiver, METP's ERA program that operates during non-summer months will only track the work-readiness performance measure along with work experience as required program components for those youth ages 18-24. ERA youth participant ages, 14-17 who participate during non-summer months, will need to be measured under the 3 standard WIA measures which are; Attainment of basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational skills, Attainment of a secondary school diploma or equivalent, and Placement and retention in post-secondary education or advanced training, military, employment or qualified apprenticeship opportunities.
The work readiness indicator is the only performance measure that will be required for summer ERA programs (along with job placement, of course).

4) How is CPP determined? Negotiations? Please offer further clarifications. As stated below the budget chart on RFP Question #8, the Cost Per Participant (CPP) will be based on the projects other anticipated expenses. Once proposals have been submitted, the Proposal Reader Committee will consider the following expenses in order to establish appropriate CPP amounts; support services offered, hours needed for supervision of youth (staff wages), project supply expenses, support services and the "other" budget category. Determination of a CPP is also based on what youth services are offered by the provider and as compared to other submitted proposals/projects, as well as the amount of funds available to be released. CPP's will not be negotiated, rather, just as with the Year Round WIA Program, they will be set.

5) We currently have a dozen or so year-round WIA youth, some of whom may still be aboard if/when the Recovery Act proposal goes into effect. Can those youth be transferred to the Recovery Act program to finish their training period?
Current Year Round WIA Youth participants should complete the Year Round WIA Program, which would be described in their Year Round WIA Individual Service Strategy (ISS), Vs transfer to the ERA Program. These programs are distinctly different, will have unique paperwork requirements, different METP Program Managers,

etc…even though both are made available by the U. S. Department of Labor/WIA resources.

6) Do you anticipate breaking out the youth dollars into RFP categories and sharing that with all the Master Contract Providers prior to proposal submission?
METP will not be defining particular break downs of ERA dollars available for the 3 distinct time periods of service. Rather, it should be known that federal policy states that as much of the funds as possible should be used to create summer employment opportunities for youth. Therefore, WSA 10 intends to release the majority of the ERA funds to summer employment projects, although, ultimately the proposals submitted to METP will also determine the amount of funds allocated to each of the 3 time periods of service.

7) The proposal states that organizations may submit more than one proposal. Does this mean we could partner with two different organizations and have two different contracts going on at the same time?
The RFP states that organizations may submit more than 1 proposal if they'd like to propose projects for more than one time period. It does not state that organizations may have two different ERA contracts during the same time period. Although; consideration may be given if the two projects proposed during the same time period were unique or unlike each other. If both proposed projects were selected, an organization could then simultaneously have two different ERA contracts.

8) Has the total amount of funding been disclosed?
WSA 10 will receive a total of $1,566,363 of youth stimulus funding. Of this total, a portion will be released via METP's 2009 Economic Recovery Act Youth RFP and it is anticipated that the remaining balance will be released via the 2010 Economic Recovery Act Youth RFP that will be released next winter/spring.

Additional Critical Information:

- 30% of WSA 10's ERA allocation must be spent on out-of school youth – therefore, priority will be given to projects that serve out-of-school youth
- In the 2009 ERA RFP, METP described the 3 distinct time periods of service as 1) summer of 2009 2) summer of 2009 & Year Round and 3) Year Round Only. In addition those time periods provided approximate beginning and end dates. Since the writing of the RFP, federal policy has described these ERA funds as available until June 30, 2011. This recent federal clarification will not change the time periods presented in the 2009 ERA RFP. WSA 10 anticipates releasing another RFP next winter/spring for the project time periods of summer 2010 and year round 2010-2011.
- WSA 10 is particularly interested in providing ERA services to those youth who are disconnected from; employment, training, school and/or employment and training organizations.

- WSA 10 is particularly interested in providing ERA services to older, out-of-school youth and to other needy youth including; those at-risk of dropping out of school, youth in and aging out of foster care, youth offenders and those at risk of court involvement, homeless and runaway youth, children of incarcerated parents, migrant youth, Indian and Native American youth, teen parents and youth with disabilities.
- WSA 10 is particularly interested in providing ERA services to veterans and eligible spouses, given the expanded age range to age 24. There is a high incidence of unemployment immediately upon discharge from military service.
- WSA 10 expects that providers create safe and learning rich work experiences for participating youth. Worksites must adhere to current workplace safety guidelines and applicable federal and state wage laws. For information and resources on safety and child labor laws, consult http://www.youthrules.dol.gov/about.htm and http://www.osha.gov.teens