

February 6, 2012

City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program

**RENEW Minneapolis: Questions and Answers Document
Request for Proposals (RFP) from organizations on the
METP Eligible Providers List for 2011-2015**

1. Question:

It appears that the RFP favors applicants who have participated in previous RENEW funding cycles, given the expectation of relevant experience in the past year. Is METP looking to continue funding existing RENEW providers? What is the likelihood that new agencies with extensive employment services experience but not specifically related to the green industry section could be considered for funding under this RFP?

Response:

Each submitted proposal will be evaluated based on the following key criteria:

- Quality, thoroughness and clarity of responses to the RFP.
- Applicant's involvement in green jobs development/career training initiatives up to this point.
- Existing and/or developing relationships with businesses; experience with successful green jobs development and placement following training.
- Capacity to deliver quality employment service outcomes.

All applicant organizations, including those serving as employment service providers under the METP/Ramsey County Workforce Solutions-administered RENEW/ARRA Pathways Out of Poverty program, are asked to thoroughly and clearly document their involvement and success with green job development and placement, career training initiatives, and experience in the five industry sectors listed in the RENEW Minneapolis RFP. Agencies need not be current RENEW employment service providers to respond to this RFP, or to be selected as **RENEW Minneapolis** employment service partners.

2. Question:

The RFP mentions that selected providers will be eligible to receive program-based payments. Can you give some more information about the amount of performance payments that providers may earn?

Response:

The estimated, potential payment per participant is \$3000.00. Performance payments will be made to agencies based on a pre-established payment schedule, aligning to program outcomes. Finalized details on the payment schedule will be provided at the point when employment service contracts are issued to the agencies selected under this RFP process.

3. Question:

On page 6 of the RFP "Sector Based Industry Category" is not clear to us. Do you mean that any organization who is applying has to have their own training center or they can partner with other agency who are providing training at their centers? or can the organization partner with those who have the training facilities?

Response:

Agencies responding to this RFP are establishing their credentials and ability to provide employment services to **RENEW Minneapolis** participants. This RFP will not establish training partners or training programs for **RENEW Minneapolis**.

Training programs proposed for funding under **RENEW Minneapolis** will be reviewed and pre-approved by METP. Each training program will relate to employment in the sector-based industry categories identified in the RFP. Given the support of RENEW employment services counselors, participants will select training programs from among multiple training partners, based on the pre-established matrix of approved options.

4. Question:

The RFP indicates that we should include attachments (page 7, bullet point number 2 of the RFP). Can you tell me what attachments are required?

Response:

The only required documents are the original cover page, the original technical proposal, and four copies of each. Please do not include other/additional attachments.

5. Question:

Is the \$1 million dollar training budget separate from the \$1 million dollar services budget or is the \$1 million for both training and services?

Response:

The \$2,000,000.00 **RENEW Minneapolis** budget includes \$1,000,000.00 in training funds and \$1,000,000.00 in employment services funding.

6. Question:

Is it acceptable for one employment service agency to serve participants under both the existing U.S. Department of Labor RENEW/ARRA Pathways Out of Poverty funding and RENEW Minneapolis?

Response:

Yes. Agencies with existing RENEW/ARRA contracts may apply, under this RFP, to become **RENEW Minneapolis** service providers. However, an individual participant will not be eligible for services under both programs. Participants will be enrolled in *either* RENEW/ARRA or in **RENEW Minneapolis**. Co-enrollment between RENEW/ARRA and **RENEW Minneapolis** will not be allowable.