NOFO No. 2025-Cyber-02

Questions and Answers

November 20, 2024

Applicant Eligibility Questions

Questions	Answers
Are universities or community colleges eligible to apply?	No, universities or community colleges are not eligible to serve as the lead or co-applicant under this program.
Why are community college non-credit workforce development programs ineligible?	Due to limited funding, this program is targeting only the entities listed as eligible under section 2.2 of the NOFO. MassCyberCenter is currently supporting workforce development programs at community colleges and universities as part of its Commonwealth SOC Range Initiative. Community college non-credit workforce development programs may be included in future rounds of this program.
We are a college that is looking to partner with a non-profit training entity. Could we be written into the proposal as a training partner if the non-profit is the lead applicant?	No, community colleges and universities are not eligible to serve as the lead or co-applicants under this program.
If high schools serve as Principal Investigators (PI), can university faculty join as co-PIs?	University faculty may advise on programs but colleges or universities are not eligible to serve as the lead or co-applicant under this program or be the end recipient of funds.
Can this grant be used to expand our program to Massachusetts residents?	Yes. The purpose of grants is to scale programs that offer non-degree pathways leading to cybersecurity employment for Massachusetts residents.
Are labor unions eligible to apply?	Yes, labor unions that offer training programs would be eligible.
Are you looking for pre-built programs or can we use the grant money to create a new program?	Per section 2.2 of the NOFO, only programs already in existence are eligible to apply due to the limited funding available.
We are a small business from California that specializes in cybersecurity training and	For-profit training entities providing programs that train young adults and/or retrain existing

professional services. Are we eligible for this program?	professionals **in Massachusetts** to enter the cybersecurity workforce are eligible applicants under this program.
Are small businesses eligible for this grant to retain and train contractors and/or employees who would like to learn and build a career in ICS/OT cybersecurity?	For-profit training entities serving Massachusetts residents are eligible under this program. Grants seek to enhance existing programs; only programs already in existence are eligible to apply.
Are individuals eligible to apply?	No, individuals are not eligible to receive a grant.
Is this program available for dislocated workers in tech looking to reskill into the cybersecurity field?	Individuals are not eligible to apply for grants under this program. Grants are available for organizations to support programs in Massachusetts that train young adults and retrain existing professionals to enter the cybersecurity workforce. These programs may reskill workers into the cybersecurity field.
According to the NOFO, licenses associated with the delivery of digitally enabled training are allowable costs under this program. Could a high school use these funds to be a "secondary education" member of CyberTrust Massachusetts and get access to its Cyber Range platform that way?	No, expenses for operating or participating in Cyber Range programs are not eligible under this program. This includes CyberTrust Massachusetts membership fees.
Can we apply to this program if we focus on middle schools to expose them to cybersecurity field?	Yes. Although middle schools are not eligible to serve as lead or co-applicants, programs supporting middle school students may apply.
In other rounds, will STEM non-profits geared towards middle schoolers and high schools be eligible to apply?	STEM non-profits supporting middle school and high school students are eligible to apply under this round. Eligibility under future rounds of the program has not yet been determined.
Are existing programs outside of Massachusetts eligible? Or do programs have to be operating within the state? Do the majority of participants need to be in Massachusetts?	Existing programs outside of Massachusetts are eligible if they are scaled within Massachusetts. All funding must used for training Massachusetts residents with a focus on the target populations listed in the NOFO.
Are we eligible as a national registered apprenticeship program with Massachusetts participants?	Yes.

Other Questions

Question	Answer
Is there a word count required for the application?	There is no required word count or limit for the narrative. We only ask that applicants provide answers to all the information requested.

According to the NOFO, $150,000 is available under this program and MassTech anticipates awarding up to 3 grants. Does this mean that each of the three grant awards can be awarded up to $150,000 or that the $150,000 will be distributed across the three awardees?	The $150,000 of available funding will be distributed across up to three awardees.
Do you have recommendations on the maximum dollars we should submit for?	We cannot make a recommendation on the maximum dollars to submit for. $150,000 would be the maximum as that is the total amount available, though we expect to make up to 3 awards.
What do you consider young adult ages?	Young adults under this program are considered to be individuals in education programs who have not yet started full-time careers.
Are we allowed to combine funding sources?	Yes. Per section 3.1(b) of the NOFO, respondents should note in their application existing program funding the proposal will leverage.
Is certification part of the training process?	Programs eligible under this program may offer certifications to trainees.
What level of budget detail do you need from subcontractors/partners or do you want just the lead applicant with a line item for partners?	The budget template (attachment C) should specify the level of funding that will be provided to subcontractors/partners from the grant to the lead applicant.
Do partners/subcontractors from outside of Massachusetts need to register within Massachusetts in some way?	There is no requirement for partners/subcontractors of the lead applicant to be located or registered in Massachusetts. However, programs must focus on serving Massachusetts residents with a focus on the target populations listed in the NOFO.