

**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**  
**Notice of Funding Availability for FY 19**

**Pathways for Young Adults Program (PYAP) Innovation Grants Program -  
Entrepreneurship**

**Release Date- Request for Applications: November 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 12:00 PM**

The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES), Office of Youth Programs (OYP) is seeking qualified organizations to provide services to District youth through its Pathways for Young Adults Program (PYAP) – Innovation Grants Program Opportunity. The PYAP Innovation Grants Program is funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which became effective on July 1, 2015.

The purpose of this PYAP Innovation Grants Program is to support the delivery of innovative workforce services that will drastically improve the opportunities in Entrepreneurship for youth between the ages of 18-24. Youth must be a recipient of a high school diploma or GED and not currently enrolled in school. The Entrepreneurship pathway under PYAP Innovation Grants Program will provide educational fundamentals and guidance around entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business incorporation, business plan development, business foundation building and launching a business to obtain a life-sustaining income.

DOES OYP will solicit grant applications from eligible organizations to assist youth with entering this pathway while providing support structures to minimize the effects of WIOA identified barriers.

Recipients of the PYAP Innovation Grants Program will aid youth in the creation of the business that leads to at least one of the two outcomes: (1) In-Program Skills Gain and/or (2) Credential Attainment.

Applicants will develop a model based upon a theory of action that supports the PYAP Innovation Grants Program Entrepreneurship Program logic model listed below. The model should address at a minimum the following elements:

1. Three phase(s): Financial Literacy Training, Business Plan Development, and Foundations for building a business;
2. Awareness of supply and demand based upon the Labor Market Information of local and regional geography;
3. Business Plan Development to be shared with various stakeholders including potential funders
4. 85% of youth participants receiving a DOES approved in-program skills gain and 75% of youth participants obtaining a Business License Credential or a Fast-Track Nationally Recognized Credential (Not to exceed 25% of youth participants)

5. Supports for weekly and monthly interaction including financial literacy, mentorship, fundraising and start-up capital, networking and membership in appropriate organizations, and special incentives for performance.

DOES OYP will fund integrated service models that explore pathways to building a business and a successful business launch.

Please refer to the WIOA guidelines and Fact Sheet for Youth Programs when determining eligibility criteria to be met.

[https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/Docs/WIOA\\_YouthProgram\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/Docs/WIOA_YouthProgram_FactSheet.pdf)

**Eligibility:** Applicants shall be a Non-Profit or For-Profit entity that is eligible to do business with the District government. Additional eligibility requirements will be detailed in the individual Request for Applications (RFA) and in the Notice of Grant Award. Where applicable, the individual RFA will be released via the ARIBA e-Sourcing system or through the online Grants Management System.

**Award Period:** The grant period will be determined and established in each individual RFA or by DOES.

**Available Funding:** DOES has identified up to \$187,500 in available funding and anticipates awarding multiple grants.

**Selection Process:** Department of Employment Services will select applicants through a competitive review process.

**Reservations**

DOES reserves the right to issue amendments subsequent to the issuance of this NOFA or individual RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or individual RFA.

If you have any questions about this NOFA, please contact:

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