

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2024

PROJECT EMPOWERMENT - JOBS READINESS TRAINING GRANT

Application Release Date: September 6, 2024

Application Submission Deadline: September 20, 2024

The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Project Empowerment Job Readiness Training (JRT) Grant. The RFA will be online on the Serve DC Grants Clearinghouse and on the DOES website at the following page: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>.

DOES, through its Division of State Initiatives (DSI), oversees programs designed to serve District residents experiencing multiple barriers to obtaining permanent employment, including court involvement, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse, and educational deficiencies. DOES DSI' signature program, Project Empowerment, is designed according to the nationally recognized transitional jobs network program model, providing job readiness and life skills training, short-term subsidized work experience, as well as ancillary wrap-around services. DOES' goal is to provide participants with the tools and experience necessary to obtain permanent, unsubsidized gainful employment that can be used to forge a path to the middle class.

DOES is seeking qualified organizations to provide job readiness training services, along with short-term subsidized work experience and job placement services to District residents with barriers to employment. To increase program retention and successful completion, Grantees will provide support services and will coordinate an optional subsidized work experience that are conducive to developing the soft skills and work experience that increases the probability of successfully obtaining permanent unsubsidized employment. Organizations must have the infrastructure needed to deliver training effectively, facilitate job development and placement services, as well as the human capital needed to serve residents with multiple barriers to employment.

Eligibility: DOES will make these grants available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit and for-profit organizations eligible to do business with the District government, including but not limited to community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and post-secondary institutions. Applicants shall have demonstrated effectiveness providing the requested services and meeting the needs of the target population.

Available Funding for the Award: Up to \$700,000.00 is available in total for awards through this RFA. DOES intends to issue multiple grant awards. DOES will award up to \$125,000 per grantee for training over a four to six week period. The JRT Grant is funded 100% through local

funds from the District of Columbia.

DOES will use the applicant's grant proposal to identify the number of participants the applicant plans to serve and determine an award amount. However, DOES maintains the right to adjust the grant award and amount based on funding availability. Determinations regarding the number of competitive grants to be awarded will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The Director of DOES or her designee will make all final award decisions.

Length of Award: The award period for this grant starts on the date of the grant award notification and ends on September 30, 2025, with four option years subject to funding availability.

Information Session: To prepare for the RFA, DOES is holding a virtual information session on **August 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Please complete the Notice of Intent to Apply and email it to OGAGrants@dc.gov to receive the meeting invite link. The Notice of Intent to Apply is available at: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants shall attend the virtual mandatory pre-application conference on September 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Please email OGAGrants@dc.gov if you will be attending the pre-application meeting to receive the meeting invite link.

Contact: For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

Vanessa Black
Department of Employment Services
Office of Grant Administration and Resource Allocation (OGARA)
Email: OGAGrants@dc.gov

Deadline for Applications: The deadline for application submissions is September 20, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.