

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2026

**Industry-Driven Growth & New Income through Training & Employment
(IGNITE) DC**

Application Release Date: June 12, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: July 13, 2026

Pursuant to its role under Section 2 of the “Workforce Job Development Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012” (D.C. Code § 1-328.05); Section 4a of the “Workforce Investment Implementation Act of 2000” (D.C. Code § 32-1603.01; and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), effective July 1, 2015 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for Industry-Driven Growth & New Income through Training & Employment (IGNITE) DC. The RFA will be online on the District Grants Clearinghouse and on the DOES website at the following page: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>.

The goal of IGNITE DC is to transform training into employment and employment into economic mobility for District residents. The program brings WIOA to life through a bold, sector-driven model that converts training into measurable economic impact. By aligning industry-recognized micro-credentials with real-time labor market demand in high-growth sectors, the initiative accelerates measurable skill gains, credential attainment, unsubsidized employment, and wage progression. Through integrated career navigation, employer-informed design, and work-based learning, IGNITE DC moves beyond traditional training models to create a true talent-to-wealth pipeline delivering skilled professionals to employers while positioning District residents for long-term financial stability and career success.

In addition, IGNITE DC is strategically positioned to support Dislocated Workers by providing structured pathways back into the workforce following job loss or economic disruption. Through targeted training, individualized career services, and direct employer engagement, the program equips Dislocated Workers with the skills necessary to transition into in-demand industries and quality employment opportunities. This approach aligns directly with the Department of Labor’s WIOA performance indicators, including employment in the second and fourth quarters after exit, median earnings, measurable skill gains (MSG), and credential attainment. By connecting training to industry-recognized credentials and real-time hiring opportunities, IGNITE DC supports participants in achieving measurable skill progression, securing unsubsidized employment, and increasing earning potential. These outcomes contribute directly to WIOA performance benchmarks while strengthening the District’s workforce pipeline and supporting long-term economic stability for dislocated workers.

Eligibility: DOES will make these grants available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit and for-profit entities authorized to conduct business with the District government and capable of delivering industry-aligned occupational skills training that results in measurable employment outcomes. Eligible entities may include, but are not limited to, community-based organizations; faith-based organizations; public, charter, or alternative secondary schools; post-secondary institutions; workforce training providers; trade associations; chambers of commerce; employer-led partnerships; and private service providers. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to provide training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, measurable skill gains, and unsubsidized employment aligned with high-demand industry sectors and WIOA performance indicators.

Available Funding for the Award: Up to \$300,000.00 is available in total for awards through this RFA. DOES intends to issue at least one (1) grant award. \$300,000.00 (100% of the award) is funded through a U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Action (WIOA) Dislocated Workers Formula Grant. Funds shall be used only for activities outlined in the scope of this RFA and in accordance with applicable federal and District requirements.

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 grant award period is for one year from the date of the award notification, with four option years, contingent upon funding availability and grantee performance.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants are encouraged to attend the virtual pre-application conference on June 26, 2026, 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:

Demetries M. Saunders
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 July 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.