

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2026

Training for Emerging Cyber Heroes (T.E.C.H) Force Grant

Application Release Date: July 3, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: August 3, 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 the Training for Emerging Cyber Heroes (T.E.C.H.) Force Grant. 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 purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to identify a qualified vendor to administer the T.E.C.H. Force program, a workforce development initiative designed to provide youths aged 18-24 with a structured pathway to employment in IT and cybersecurity by offering certification-based training and direct job placement support. The program aligns with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by incorporating occupational skills training, work-based learning, supportive services, financial literacy, and mentorship. Training providers will be responsible for equipping youth with industry-recognized credentials, delivering employer-driven instruction, and facilitating job placement opportunities.

The selected vendor must demonstrate expertise in IT fundamentals, digital literacy, emerging technologies, workforce development, and mentorship while effectively coordinating key program components, including recruitment, cohort management, certification facilitation, and employer engagement.

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; Public, charter, or alternative secondary schools; post-secondary institutions; trade associations or chambers of commerce; and private service providers. Applicants shall have demonstrated experience and qualifications delivering high quality, structured and specialized workforce development training responsive to this RFA, including working knowledge of federal (including WIOA) and local laws, regulations, policies and guidance that restricts data collection/disclosures.

Available Funding for the Award: Up to \$200,000.00 is available in total for awards through this RFA. DOES intends to issue at least one (1) grant award. The \$200,000.00 grant is 100% funded through the District's Governor's Reserve/State Set-Aside under Title I of WIOA.

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 July 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.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 August 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.