DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABLITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2026

JOB READINESS TRAINING (JRT) GRANT

FOR WARDS 5, 7 and 8

Application Release Date: August 24, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: September 22, 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 Division of State Initiatives for Job Readiness (JRT) Training 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.

DOES notes that there is a shortened timeframe between the publication of this NOFA and the RFA. Delaying release of the RFA until the full 14-day NOFA period elapses would make it impossible to complete the competitive review and award process before funding lapses on September 30, 2026. The shortened notice period is necessary to expedite the provision of critical job readiness training services and subsidized work experiences to vulnerable District populations to prevent gaps in services and ensure the timely commencement of the grant award period and to align with the funding cycle requirements. The agency will nevertheless, in accordance with D.C. Code § 1-328.05, provide applicants 30 days to prepare and submit applications and will conduct a pre-application conference at least 14 days before the application submission deadline to ensure prospective applicants have opportunity to obtain clarification.

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. DSI is seeking qualified organizations to provide job readiness training services, along with short-term subsidized work experience and job placement services to the District's Homeless Population with barriers to employment. To increase program retention and successful completion, Grantees will provide support services and coordinate an optional subsidized work experience that is conducive to developing the soft skills and work experience that increase 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 $93,000 is available in total for award through this RFA. DOES intends to issue up to one (1) grant award for $93,000. 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 grant award period is one year from the date of the grant award notification with three option years subject to funding availability.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants shall attend the virtual mandatory pre-application conference on **September 8, 2026, at 3:30 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 September 22, 2026, at 3:00 PM. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.