

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2026

DOES Out-of-School Youth(OSY) Pre-Apprenticeship Grant

Application Release Date: April 23, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: May 26, 2026

Pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Youth program (29 U.S.C. § 3164) and its implementing regulations at 20 C.F.R. Part 681, the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Pre-Apprenticeship 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 Out-of-School Youth Program (OSY) provides occupational skills training, career awareness counseling, work readiness modules, basic education, GED preparation, supported internship experiences, vocational skills training, and pre-apprenticeship. OSY programs serve young adults ages 16 - 24 who are no longer attending secondary or post-secondary school. It is a training vehicle that assists youth in achieving short- and long-term educational and employment goals through relevant occupational skills training and guidance.

DOES, through OSY, is seeking applications from organizations for the Pre-Apprenticeship Program designed to equip young adults with work readiness, credential attainment, and on the job training to lead to full-time employment. By combining structured learning with real-world application, the program will empower District youth to develop sustainable ventures, enhance economic mobility, and achieve lasting career growth.

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 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: This up to \$200,000 grant is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration through the District of Columbia's Program Year (PY) 2025 WIOA Title I Youth Grant. Awarded funds shall be used only for activities outlined in the scope of the 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 one year from the date of the award notification, with three option years, contingent upon funding availability.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants are encouraged to attend the virtual pre-application conference on May 8, 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:

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 May 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.