Questions and Answers

1. Is the inclusion of workforce/small business/entrepreneurial services to undocumented workers/residents allowed?

Yes.

2. Are the supportive services outlined in the solicitation (p. 31) the only ones that are allowed, or would other forms of supportive services be allowed with this grant?

The list on page 31 is not an exhaustive list of participant supportive services. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants.

3. Would this grant allow for emergency housing support or payment of other bills such as utilities?

Yes, if such participant supportive services are included in the grant application. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants. For additional information on project eligibility, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

4. Are supportive services required for employment allowable in this grant?

Yes, if such participant supportive services are included in the grant application. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants. For additional information on project eligibility, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

5. With regard to the provision of transportation supportive services, would the following be allowed with this grant: paying for a driver's license; paying for previously incurred violations that prevent one from obtaining a license; some degree of personally owned vehicle repairs, necessary for the safe operation of a vehicle to attend training?

All three examples will be allowed by this grant; however, the grantee must establish a policy for the use of these services including amount limits and collect proper documentation. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants. For additional information on project eligibility, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

6. Would any or all supportive services be available during an initial job retention period as is the case in other training programs?

All proposed supportive services will be available to participants during their participation in the program. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants. For additional information on project eligibility, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

7. Are stipends allowable for this grant? If so, would stipends be allowable for one or more of the following: internships, mini-apprenticeships, other work-and-learn / on-the-job training, attending classroom training, etc.?

Stipends are allowed for any of the categories listed if the proposed workforce training program includes such stipends. For additional information, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

8. Please clarify if the proposed projects only need to align with the goals stated in a regional or subregional planning document or if the specific project needs to be mentioned in one of those documents?

Proposed projects can align with goals stated in a locally adopted regional or subregional plan or can be explicitly mentioned in those planning documents.

9. Does a project that is not cited in a subregional/regional plan, but mitigate the displacement impact of infrastructure and/or housing projects that are specified in a subregional/regional plan, meet the requirements associated with Section III.B (Eligible Projects) and IV.C.5 in the SFP (Planning Document)?

Proposed projects do not need to be explicitly cited in a locally adopted regional or subregional plan to be eligible, but they must align with the goals stated in the planning documents.

10. Would a workforce development Regional Plan or Local Plan be an eligible plan?

Yes, a Regional Plan or Local Plan that was adopted in the last five years is an eligible plan.

11. Is there a template or required form for filing the Notice of Intent to Apply?

No, the interested applicant just needs to send an email with the intent to apply to WSBCERF@edd.ca.gov by 5 p.m. on January 23, 2023.

12. Can Community Economic Resilience Fund Program (CERF) EDP funds be used by the grantee to support the development or acquisition of physical infrastructure, for example new facility construction or existing building renovation? If yes, will construction or renovation need to be completed by the project end date?

Yes, funds can be used for these purposes as long as they are listed in the grant application. Construction or renovation would need to be completed by the project end date.

13. **Although we actually plan to construct a major project called Alchemist Public Market at once, we have broken it into two funding phases, with Phase 1 at $4.375m and Phase 2 at $4.5 million. We have broken it out so that the most essential heart of the project could be constructed and operated alone if Phase 1 is funded and Phase 2 is not yet fully funded. In the CERF application, is it possible to lay this out, noting that if both grants are awarded we will be able to complete the entire project but if CERF alone is awarded, we will still be able to construct Phase 1 promptly while we continue to work on Phase 2 funding?**

CERF EDP funds may be used to support one phase of a multi-phase project if the phase can function as a standalone project, even if Phase 2 is not yet fully funded. The application should clearly explain how Phase 1 can be constructed and operated without Phase 2, and the required workplan and budget exhibits should detail expenses and workplans for both phases of the project. See Appendix A of the SFP for the full list of required exhibits and appendices.

14. **Can funds be used for Participant Wages for participants working in the program?**

Yes, if such participant supportive services are included in the grant application. Applicants must outline the types of training and supportive services they intend to provide to participants. For additional information on project eligibility, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

15. **Are facility repair/renovation costs allowable?**

Yes, funds can be used for these purposes as long as they are listed in the grant application. Construction or renovation would need to be completed by the project end date.

16. **Our CEDS region's last report by ABAG was from January 2018. Does that mean our region is dormant and we are disqualified?**

The CERF EDP solicitation opened in January 2023, so this CEDS would qualify as an eligible planning document.

17. **Is EDD implementing any processes to help reduce duplication of effort or competition within regions?**

The EDD will not be performing any coordinating functions for CERF EDP applications. For information regarding the application process, reach out to the Regional Economic Recovery Coordinator in your region.

18. **What if a project is awarded a grant in April, but subsequently is sued under CEQA after that? What happens to the grant? Is it revoked?**

Activities funded by this program must comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other environmental permitting requirements. Applicants are advised to consider whether official action from a decision-making body will be necessary before accepting funds awarded under this SFP. The time needed for

such official action will affect the applicant's ability to meet the project terms and conditions. After an award offer is made, an applicant is required to negotiate with the EDD to finalize program components to support grant implementation. EDD reserves the right to terminate any offer of funding if an applicant does not negotiate in good faith or breaches the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

19. **Are fiscal sponsorships allowed for community organizations?**

Yes, fiscal sponsorships for community organizations that are necessary partners in the proposed project would be an eligible use of CERF EDP funds. These sponsorships should be included in the grant application.

20. **Please confirm that the plan doesn't have to be adopted but authorized for development.**

All plans must be identified in a locally adopted regional or subregional planning document which includes the following examples of eligible plans: Community Investment Playbook, Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan (State Plan), Economic or community development strategy, Infrastructure financing or community revitalization plan, US Housing and Urban Development consolidated plan, Regional growth plan and Other similar plans or strategies adopted by a local or regional body, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

21. **If project budget is greater than the grant request, do you want to see the whole budget of the project or just the part that CERF would fund?**

The budget details and narrative should reflect the requested budget under the EDP application.

22. **Do you anticipate the project guidelines being similar to these for future CERF project /implementation grant solicitations (after this round)?**

The guidelines and solicitation for the Implementation phase are still in development, and the final guidelines may or may not differ significantly from CERF EDP project guidelines and solicitation. Implementation grants will be consistent with the CERF enacting legislation (SB 162).

23. **For letters of support are the CEDs and workforce Development board the same? The requirement for this are confusing.**

If the proposed project is tied to a CEDS, a letter of support would be required from the local agency leading implementation of the CEDS. If that agency is a Workforce Development Board, the applicant should submit a letter from one of the other required entities for the third letter (a local or regional government, an economic development agency, or a California Native American Tribe).

24. **Page 9 of the SFP states, "Projects must have completed feasibility and environmental studies and received permits, if relevant." However, page 14 states, "Applicants must identify all permits required to implement the project, and that the permit(s) can be obtained within the grant term" May you please clarify whether permits need to already be received in order to be eligible? Or do applicants only need to identify the permits needed even if they are still in process?**

Projects should list anticipated necessary permits and the steps for receiving them within the grant period of performance. If permits have been received, the applicant should include copies of those permits.

25. **Do feasibility studies need to be completed by the time of the application or within the grant term? Is there more information on what projects are required to have a feasibility study?**

Any feasibility studies must be completed before the final grant award is made. The EDD does not have a list of projects that are required to have completed a feasibility study.

26. **As part of the webinar, it was communicated that workforce projects must be subprojects of the project categories: innovation ecosystem, entrepreneurship and access to capital, infrastructure and community facility development, and social infrastructure. To clarify, does this mean workforce projects cannot apply on their own and must be a subproject of a larger project that is submitting an application? Or can workforce projects apply on their own as long as the training is relevant to one of those 4 areas?**

Yes, Workforce training programs can be incorporated into the categories outlined in the SFP, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

27. **As a point of clarification, could advance funds be used to align feasibility studies, permits, and planning documentation by the September start date? Or must all be squared away with the February 13th application?**

No, all necessary feasibility studies, permits, and other documentation must be secured or in the process of being secured by the contract start date. See section IV. C Feasibility Studies and/or Permits.

28. **Will it be allowable to submit letters of support as PDF files? From the instructions, it is not immediately clear if this is allowable and another attendee raised the question, but I assume it must be as most officials do not want to provide letters of support as anything other than PDF in order to ensure their letters cannot be edited by applicants.**

Yes, Letters of Support can be submitted in PDF.

29. **Will this webinar be recorded?**

This webinar will not be recorded.

30. **How long is this webinar?**

This webinar will be about 1 hour.

31. **Please confirm that all of these dollars are in fact from the state general fund and would therefore be considered not federal in the event that match/leverage would be required for subsequent federal grants.**

All CERF dollars are from the State General Fund, not the federal government.

32. **Will EDD still accept questions regarding the Pilot Projects after this webinar?**

Yes, you can continue submitting questions to the EDD via email at WSBCERF@edd.ca.gov.

33. **Can one region receive more than one pilot grant? Or will each of the 13 regions receive one grant?**

While technically a region could receive more than one award, section 5 of the SFP (page 15) outlines the focus on geographic equity, with an emphasis on giving each of the regions an opportunity for funding.

34. **Can you expand upon this section in the overview please (p. 6, II A): "The Economic Development Pilot will fund projects that are not directly tied to the CERF Planning and Implementation phases but that illustrate the types of projects that may be funded during the Implementation phase of the program." Does this mean that a project funded in this pilot would not be eligible for funding under the CERF process in that region going forward? Does it mean that planners in the current CERF process would not be eligible to apply as the lead applicants?**

This section is not intended to dictate or define eligibility for future SFPs, rather to note that the projects funded under this SFP are intended to serve as examples of future CERF funding related to implementation.

35. **Does California Native American Tribe include Urban Indian Organizations?**

Urban Indian Organizations, as registered 501c3 non-profits, are eligible.

36. **Must all types of proposed projects be identified in a regional plan?**

Proposed projects do not need to be explicitly cited in a locally adopted regional or subregional plan to be eligible, but they must clearly and articulately align with the goals stated in the planning documents.

37. **Can projects fall in more than one type of project category?**

Yes.

38. **If we were not funded through CERF planning phase, are we eligible to apply for this funding?**

Yes, this application is not limited to those funded under the CERF Planning Phase solicitation.

39. Will you provide a copy of the slides for download?

A copy of the slides will not be available for download; however, a summary of today's presentation will be emailed to all registered participants along with the cumulative Q&A from this webinar.

40. For funding an existing project, does it have to be a CERF program or can it be an established program that is within the guidelines of CERF funds?

This SFP does not require proposed projects to be associated with the newly established High Road Transition Collaboratives.

41. If this is state funding and administered by state agencies, then why are you using SAM?

A recipient must maintain an active registration with current information during any period during which the organization has an application under consideration or an active award, including state funding distributed through the EDD.

42. Can you please type the SAM registration site here?

https://sam.gov/content/home

43. Where can we get a copy of the Solicitation for Proposal, is there a link?

Please visit the EDD SFP website for a copy of the Economic Development Pilot SFP: https://edd.ca.gov/en/jobs_and_training/wdsfp_workforce_development_solicitations_for_proposals

44. How do you envision CERF-funded projects relating to ETPF-funded projects and what are the differences in your intentions for these separate equity-oriented funding opportunities? Could a project braid CERF and ETPF funding?

The Equity Target Population Fund Grant Program is federally funded through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Governor's discretionary funds; the projects will be awarded to design and implement projects that accelerate equity in employment and develop innovative employment strategies for populations that face significant barriers to employment by combining demand-driven training and education with tailored wrap-around services. Applicants to the ETPF PY 22-23 program may propose to serve one or more of the following special populations: disconnected young adults, justice-involved individuals, people with disabilities, and veterans. Meanwhile, the CERF Program is funded through State General Funds, the objective of CERF is to build an equitable and sustainable economy across California's diverse regions and to foster long-term economic resilience in the overall transition to a carbon-neutral economy. To achieve this objective, CERF includes a focus on investments that target equitable economic outcomes for workers and communities. Thus, CERF prioritizes regional and worker-centered inclusive economic planning while aligning with and leveraging state investments (e.g., High Road Training Partnerships, infrastructure investments, community capacity building programs), federal

investments (e.g., American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act), and philanthropic and private-sector investments.

The SFP does not have a stated requirement for matching or braiding funds. However, it does state, "Projects that intend to use Economic Development Pilot funds as matching funds must demonstrate additional funding has already been secured."

45. **On Page 26 of the SFP, Executive Summary is included in #1, however, it is not part of the template. Is an Executive Summary required?**

An Executive Summary is not required as part of the application. An errata will be completed to update page 26 of the SFP.

46. **If this is not already to be addressed in the presentation, can you please provide a sample text of any specific language that needs to be included in the Letters of Support and whom they should be addressed to?**

There is not specified language that must be included in the Letters of Support. They can be addressed to EDD.

47. **If projects are not required to be associated with HRTCs, what does Section J of the Administrative Requirements on page 24 refer to by "Collaboration with HRTC Projects funded under this SFP are required to participate in the High Road Transition Collaborative in the region applicable to the project. Participation will be facilitated by the state upon the start of the project implementation"?**

The SFP does not require projects to be associated with their regional HRTC prior to submission. However, if funded, the awarded applicants/projects are required to participate with their HRTC. The State team will help facilitate this engagement.

48. **For the letters of support, can you clarify who is meant by "lead agency of the related planning document"?**

As an example, if your County is the entity that was responsible for developing a CEDS, they would be considered the Lead Agency.

49. **Is the NOI a prerequisite for applying? If an applicant fails to submit an NOI, can they still submit an application?**

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to notify the EDD of their intent to apply for this funding opportunity by emailing WSBCERF@edd.ca.gov by noon on Monday, January 23, 2023 confirming your interest in applying. Applicants that do not provide this email notification may still apply for funding. These non-binding notifications will help inform the EDD to develop a more efficient process for reviewing grant applications in this competition.

50. **I anticipate that emailed applications may surpass the attachment size maximum for the state email system. If this is the case, should attachments be submitted via a link to a web-based drive like Google Drive or Dropbox?**

No, the application must be submitted via email. Please submit multiple emails if necessary. Emails must clearly indicate the documents attached. For example Email 1 of 3, with Exhibit A.

51. **Do we have to submit all the projects we worked on even if they are not applicable to this grant? Also, can we provide stipend to the participants?**

Yes, the applicant must include a 2-page organization resume listing the most recent projects implemented by the organization. Stipends are allowed, if the workforce training program is a sub-project of projects in Innovation Ecosystem, Entrepreneurship and Access to Capital, Infrastructure and Community Facility Development, and Social Infrastructure. For additional information, see Section III.B Eligible Projects.

52. **How does the applicant denote applications that include multiple categories of services, i.e. Entrepreneurship and Social Infrastructure?**

The applicant may list more than one project category if the proposed project spans multiple categories.

53. **Are there any specific instructions for how letters of support should be written/completed? Can we reuse letters of support we have already obtained?**

The only requirements for the Letters of Support are stated on page 13 of the SFP. Letters of support may be reused if the letter supports exactly the same project as the one being proposed and is from one of the required project partners listed on page 13 of the SFP.

54. **If a local government has a project and local plan to follow, does it need to align with regional objectives and if so can you please give an example?**

Locally adopted plans are not required to be aligned with regional plans under this SFP.

55. **Are the application packages due February 13th only for HRTCs and/or Regional Conveners?**

The Economic Development Pilot application is due on February 13, 2023. For a list of eligible applicants, please see Section II.B Eligible Applicants in the SFP.

56. **Is it okay for one to contact your offices for further explanation on any item not clear?**

You may send additional questions to WSBCERF@edd.ca.gov or contact GO-Biz for further technical assistance at https://gobiz.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new.

57. **For the Letters of Support, if the lead agency is the same as our workforce and economic agency, can we submit one letter for both?**

Please include an additional letter from one of the other stated partners on page 13 of the SFP.