



Mississippi Community College Board

Office of Adult Education

3825 Ridgewood Road

Jackson, MS 39211

601-432-6518

2/14/2025

QUESTIONS FROM VIRTUAL BIDDER'S CONFERENCE:

- 1) Audra Perry: I have a few questions from reviewing the application guidelines:
 - Question: page 7 of 40 from the application - What is a consortium applicant?
 - Answer: Based on [34 CFR 463.24](#) (i), a consortium or coalition of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in (a) through (h) of this section
 - Question: page 9 of 40 - if you plan to provide workplace preparation activities other than the Smart Start curriculum, will that have a negative impact on your grant application?
 - Answer: No, the Office of Adult Education designates the Smart Start Course as the standard for workplace preparation; however, you have the discretion to add to and modify the course to fit your students'/employers' needs. Please note that students will only receive a Smart Start Credential, Certificate, or be eligible for college credit if they fulfill the completion requirements of the Smart Start Pathway Course.
 - Question: page 15 of 40 - Where are the suggested award amounts for each county as determined by the American Community Survey? The application guidelines state they are listed, but I have been unable to find this information.
 - Answer: No, that has not been determined and will not be until we receive the estimated memo from OCTAE. The typo will be corrected and the document uploaded to the grant opportunities webpage.
- 2) Andrew Strehlow:
 - Question: If we submit an RFP for 231 - would the funds remain separate for ELL or be just one funding stream?
 - Answer: If you are applying for section 231, you will provide one budget narrative that includes AE instructors and EL instructors and all costs associated with the program.
- 3) Tiffany Culpepper:
 - Question: If our employment second quarter after exit and/or employment fourth quarter after exit is not at the 40% negotiated target, we should not apply because we are not eligible?
 - Answer: All eligible providers will need to meet demonstrated effectiveness. See page 5 of the application.
- 4) David Farago, Grad Solutions:
 - Question: Does an eligible provider need to be located in Mississippi?
 - WIOA Section 231(a) - GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award

multiyear grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers *within the State* or outlying area to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and literacy activities within the State.

- Answer: OAE response – eligible providers must be located within the State (Mississippi).

5) Laurie Kesler:

- Question: Can Beth elaborate on H -d (Page 13) “d. The extent to which the Title II applicant’s proposed activities and services demonstrate alignment to the activities and services of the one-stop partners, including providing access to adult education services through the one-stop system.”
 - Answer: In the narrative, explain how the applicant integrated adult education services within the broader workforce system, fostering collaboration with one-stop centers to support job seekers and learners.

6) Laurie Kesler:

- Question: Elaborate on where we account for professional development on the budget template.
 - Answer: Professional development costs can be reported as State Leadership Activities and Local Administrative Costs – See details below
- 1) State Leadership Activities: WIOA Section 223 (a) (1) (B) The establishment or operation of high quality professional development programs to improve the instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b), including instruction incorporating the essential components of reading instruction as such components relate to adults, instruction related to the specific needs of adult learners, instruction provided by volunteers or by personnel of a State or outlying area, and dissemination of information about models and promising practices related to such programs.
 - OAE Response - MS allows programs to expense costs associated with professional development utilizing Section 223 State Leadership funding. This is accounted for in the State Leadership portion of the budget template.
- Local Administrative Costs: 34 CFR 463.26 Local Administrative Costs: An eligible provider receiving a grant or contract under this part may consider costs incurred in connection with the following activities to be administrative costs:
 - Planning;
 - Administration, including carrying out performance accountability requirements;
 - Professional development;
 - Providing adult education and literacy services in alignment with local workforce plans, including promoting co-enrollment in programs and activities under title I, as appropriate; and
 - Carrying out the one-stop partner responsibilities described in [§ 678.420](#), including contributing to the infrastructure costs of the one-stop delivery system.

- a. Note: Special Rule for Local Administration Costs Limits (refer to Section 233 of WIOA): In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for the activities described in subsection (a)(s), the eligible provider shall negotiate eligible agency (OAE) in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for administrative purposes.

7) Laurie Kesler:

- Question: Can we request equipment in the RFP?
 - Answer: Yes, it is an allowable cost. Refer to uniform guidance [2 CFR 200](#).

8) Raymonda Z. Delaware:

- Question: Is Equipment considered \$10,000 or more or is it still \$5000 or more?
 - Answer: \$10,000 – Uniform Guidance FAQ – 2 CFR 200
<https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ofo/oaga/uniformguidancefaqs.pdf>

9) Tiffany Culpepper:

- Question: Is a one stop center the same as a WIN center?
 - Answer: Yes, in MS we refer to them as WIN Job Centers.

10) Tiffany Culpepper:

- Question: Can we hand deliver the copies to your office?
 - Answer: Yes

11) LaShetta Wilder/Vanessa Smith:

- Question: Is there a cap (maximum funding amount) for the grant application?
 - Answer: No there is not a cap for the maximum funding amount that can be requested. Keep in mind the uniform guidance 2 CFR 200 and if the expenses are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary.

12) Raymonda Z. Delaware:

- Question: How much has been allocated for the overall programs, all three for the entire program?
 - Answer: The OAE does not have a total amount to be awarded. We are waiting on the estimates memo from the Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE).
- Question: What is the payment time for reimbursements?
 - Answer: 45 days
- Question: Are there any allowance for advanced payments for extenuating circumstances or when serving severely disadvantaged areas
 - Answer: No, we operate on a cost reimbursement basis.

13) LaShetta Wilder:

- Question: Must MDOC apply for 231, 225, or 243 funding
 - Answer: An eligible provider can apply for any of the three funding streams.

14) Rhonda Varnado:

- Question: Solution Keys currently Provides Personal Care attendant (PCA) Certification classes for Eagle Health Care, that enable individual to qualify to work as a certified PCA, with Eagle Health Care, but this certificate can be used to work at other health care agencies. Will this class certification qualify for the grant if the classes are not only for Eagle health care but open to other people and not only just Eagle Health Care new employees?

- Answer: All eligible providers will need to meet demonstrated effectiveness. Please provide more details on the classification of these classes, specifically whether they align with at least one of the allowable activities under Section 231, 225, and/or 243 funding.
- Question: Also are the grantees totally responsible for marketing the classes offered or is there a referral source from other agencies, like WIN job center, or other programs?
 - Answer: The WIOA Core partners responsible for WIOA Training programs, workforce services, wraparound services, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation are now digitally connected through a referral hub. The referral allows staff from any WIOA partner agency to electronically refer participants, ensuring they have access to the necessary support to pursue a high-quality career pathway. In addition to electronic communications advances in how partners collaborate to meet participant needs, the state's physical infrastructure for workforce delivery continues to evolve through comprehensive One-Stop centers and providing virtual support options and in-person services. Please see the [MS WIOA Combined State Plan](#) for more information.

15) Lufunya Porter - Jackson State University –

- Question: if our agency received funding in the past prior to 22/23, do we use the chart for those that HAVE received funding or those that HAVE NOT received funding?
 - Answer: **CORRECTED FROM GUIDANCE DURING THE BIDDERS CONFERENCE:** Yes, based on 34 CFR 463.24 (b)(1) An eligible provider that has been funded under title II of the Act must provide performance data required under section 116 to demonstrate past effectiveness.
 - OAE response – If you have received funding under Title II of the Act (WIOA), you would use the chart beginning on page 6. If you have never received funding under Title II of the Act (WIOA), you would use the charts beginning on page 9.

02/20/2025

1) Solution Keys Outreach Services

- Question: page 7 Section II A. a. – Where can I access and complete Table 2.3 and 2.4?
 - Answer: Table 2.3 and 2.4 are the two tables in the applications under Demonstrated Effectiveness labeled “Data for Applicants NOT PREVIOUSLY Funded under AEFLA, WIOA Title II.”
 - OAE Response – the tables in the Demonstrated Effectiveness sections of each application have been updated to reflect “Table 2.1”, “Table 2.2”, “Table 2.3” and “Table 2.4”.

02/24/2025

1) Audra Perry, Itawamba Community College

- Question: 1.4, page 4 – Section 231 – Should we include an annual number of individuals served OR a total number served for the duration of the grant (from 2026-2030)?
 - Answer: Enter the number of eligible individuals projected to be served annually.

02/26/2025

1) Ruby Smith, Pearl River Community College

- Question: In the Bidder's Conference, you mentioned combining AE-231 and ELL-231 into one budget. When I am working in the updated budget document, it only allows me to choose AE or ELL separately under funding type. Should I choose AE-231 and include ELL on the same form?
 - Answer: Yes, if you are only applying for Section 231 funding, you will choose AE-231 and include your ELL expenses on the same budget. I will remove ESL-231 from the dropdown menu.

02/28/2025

1) Audra Perry, Itawamba Community College

- Question: Do community colleges applying for Section 231 funds need to include a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form?
 - Answer: Yes.
- Question: Does a community college's Non-Discrimination Statement suffice for the GEPA statement?
 - Answer: See section **B. General Education Provisions ACT** in the application. While the nondiscrimination statement supports the intent of a GEPA statement, it does not list the steps the program will take to ensure equitable access to and equitable participation in the project.

3/3/2025

1) Audra Perry, Itawamba Community College

- Question: Section B, page 16 General Education and Provisions Act (GEPA) Statement In the application, a link is provided for anyone wanting more information. The link is <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/gepa427.pdf>. The link takes you to a blank form that includes questions and fields to enter information by responding to questions. Does this form need to be submitted as part of the grant application? Do we need a statement in the body of the application as well as an attachment that includes our GEPA (Non-Discrimination) Statement that has been signed by a member of the college President's cabinet? Any clarification that can be provided related to the expectations for this section would be very helpful.
- Answer: **Section B. General Education Provisions ACT** is where you describe the steps the program will take to ensure access to, and equitable participation in, the project. It describes how the program will overcome barriers for students. This narrative will be scored by the readers. **Section N. GEPA Statement** is a required

attachment that must include a signature from the institution/agency. This can be the same as what was submitted as the narrative for Section B, or it could be a condensed version. You will need a statement in the body of the application and a statement as an attachment. The difference is the statement for Section N must be signed and attached as a separate document. The link takes you to a form that can be used if you choose to.