

RISE Career Pathways Regional Innovations

Request for Concept Proposals (RFCP) June 2008

DWD and WTCS have \$300,000 available for grants to complete early-stage career pathway development. Grant applicants may be either a Workforce Development Board or a technical college, working together and in collaboration with other partners.

In a narrative of no more than three pages, applicants should describe their plans to develop an operational element of a bridge to postsecondary career pathway, as described in the Section V Operational Elements of *Wisconsin's RISE Guidelines* (<http://www.risepartnership.org/guidelines.htm>). Applications must focus on one or more components of the operational elements as described below.

1. *Business engagement protocol package*

Research, develop and test a protocol package for engaging businesses that might include template agreements for stages of involvement, outreach materials that speak to business workforce skill needs, a process for identifying specific sector issues. Materials that have a specific sector rather than a generic focus are encouraged.

2. *Career pathways training package for education and/or workforce professionals*

Research, develop and test a training package to orient workforce and/or education professionals to a career pathway construct. Materials could include career pathway road map comprehension, user friendly career and labor market information, life-long learning and career portfolio products for adults, collaborative protocols to deliver case management and wrap around services, resources for relationship building with partners and related topics.

3. *Local/regional marketing plan and materials for working adult, employers or both*

Research, develop and test outreach and marketing plans that clearly identify mutually beneficial solutions for employers, working adults and workforce and education partners. As in the above, specific sector-focused materials are encouraged to align with other regional workforce and economic development efforts.

4. *Curriculum development*

Proposals may also request funding for curriculum following the guidelines issued in the March RFCP. This may include both resubmittals and new proposals. See the RISE website for the March RFCP. <http://risepartnership.org/pdf/rfc032808.pdf>

- ***Postsecondary career pathway curricula*** that modularize WTCS diploma or degree programs and link each module to career advancement opportunities.
- ***Bridge curricula*** employing contextualized learning to improve the transitions of ABE/ELL learners to postsecondary occupational education or career pathway learning.

Conditions for funded proposals:

- Representatives of funded proposals will be expected to participate as members of a statewide demonstration project work group to discuss program development and policy issues related to sustaining career pathway development across the state.
- Successful applicants will participate in workgroups and conference calls as part of the grant program leading to a RISE Leadership Conference in early spring of 2009 to present final materials and products.
- All materials and documentation must be replicable and will be shared statewide. Similar to the WTCS Curriculum Bank, a RISE Career Pathways "bank" of related materials will be created.