

## 4-25-2025 Clarifying Questions Response

### GWV Broadband Workforce Implementation Plan Consultant RFP

#### Federal funds:

1. Is this attached to any federal funding, and if so, have those funds already been disbursed?
2. Are the majority of the funds for project implementation coming from federal dollars that are already committed or is there a chance some of these will be withdrawn or canceled?
  - a. It is funded by an existing ARC ARISE award on a reimbursement basis. As of 4/25/25 there are no expected cuts.

#### Budget:

3. Is there a funding floor or cap for proposals?
4. How much is budgeted for creating the plan?
  - a. As stated in the RFP the budget for the planning project is \$28,000.

#### Geography:

5. To clarify, the project plan is for both WV and PA, correct?
6. When the RFP says it is looking for "an action plan for scaling the proven model to serve more residents in the Greater Pittsburgh Area and across the State of West Virginia," can you provide the specific counties or geographic region Generation WV would like to cover in the project area in Pennsylvania? For example, do you mean Allegheny County and the six surrounding counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence, and Washington, in addition to the entire State of West Virginia?
  - i. Counties covered by this ARISE planning award include:
    1. Pennsylvania - Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Greene, and Washington
    2. West Virginia (all counties) - Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming

- ii. The project scope includes identifying the most feasible locations to expand current programming into.

### **Remote Work:**

7. Is it acceptable for the consultant to complete the scope of work remotely? If on-site participation is required, could you please specify the primary location(s) where in-person meetings or activities are expected?
8. Do you anticipate the bulk of this work to be virtual or in-person?
  - a. The bulk of the work can likely be completed virtually if consultants can demonstrate their ability to facilitate a wide range of partners remotely. In person activities could include a tour of existing project site(s), partner meeting, and/or final presentation.
9. Are you looking for WV/PA based consultants or outside consultants will be considered?
  - a. Outside consultants will be considered.

### **Partner engagement:**

10. The objective of the work is to create a plan to "integrate and scale proven workforce development and digital literacy programs into a multi state" program. The RFP mentions having employers "actively engaged in curriculum development and training." Does the scope of work (SOW) include getting specific input from employers on program content, doing curriculum development, or creating products to be used directly in training? Or is it just to engage them and determine their workforce requirements?
  - a. Existing curriculum is already in use at Catholic Charities Diocese of Pittsburgh so employer outreach will be focused on their workforce requirements.
11. One objective stated in the RFP is to contact "10+ academic and workforce partners ... to engage in job training program development" along with providers. Do you have a sense who these partners will be and their level of interest? Are there pre-determined qualifications/requirements of these partners or will it be part of the SOW to provide such criteria?
  - a. This list has not been developed. There are no predetermined qualifications but the project team anticipates that they will work with the consultant to conduct appropriate asset mapping to identify the most appropriate partners to engage with.
12. Does the SOW involve assessing these prospective partners' capacity to create/modify curriculum as well as deliver the program? Will it be necessary to evaluate their capabilities for tactics such as apprenticeships/internships or

train-the-trainer? Is it expected that the employer partners will manage program participants or provide trainers?

- a. It may include assessing partners willingness and ability to use/adjust the existing model/curriculum that is currently in use at the Gismondi Job Training Program. Depending on the feasibility of replicating the model, exact needs for partnerships may shift.

**Scope:**

13. Will it be necessary to develop a business model, including revenue/support, for the program? Are there financial and other resources to conduct the program available from current partners? Are employers expected to directly pay for the programs or cover participation costs?
  - a. Facilitating the development of a phased plan/model including identifying funding is part of this project's scope of work. The goal is to develop a feasible model to be submitted as an ARC ARISE implementation grant.
14. The RFP mentions that the implementation of the PA/WV Fiber and Digital Literacy Workforce Training program will aim to serve 500+ individuals with no-cost digital literacy and job training services within a three-year implementation period, but it does not mention the anticipated budget range for this program. Is there an anticipated budget range for the implementation of the program? If not, do you anticipate that coming out of the planning process?
  - a. There is not a predefined budget, the planning process includes determining the scope and scale of the project and implementation funding requests within the bounds of the available funding sources.

**Project team:**

15. Project Partner Composition: How many core project partners are currently engaged in this initiative? Understanding the scope of coordination will help us allocate the appropriate level of resources.
  - a. The core team is currently made up of representatives from GWV, Catholic Charities of WV, Catholic Charities Diocese of Pittsburgh, Washington Co Authority, and Computer Reach.
16. Project Leadership Role: Is the selected consultant expected to lead the entire planning process, or will they play a supporting role within a larger project team? If the consultant will be supporting, could you clarify which organization will be leading the initiative?

- a. GWV is the coordinating entity for this project and is seeking a consultant to work closely with the project director and lead the planning process for all project partners.

**Final Deliverable Expectations:**

- 17. The RFP states that the final deliverable is a phased implementation plan and that, depending on outcomes, it could potentially take the form of an ARC ARISE Implementation grant application. Could you please clarify the preferred format and level of detail expected in the final deliverable from the consultant? Should we plan for a formal grant proposal-style document, or will a strategic action plan with supporting materials be sufficient?
  - a. If the project is determined to be feasible, the goal is for the final document to be an ARISE implementation proposal *\*contingent on funding availability.*