**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202205071 - Higher Education Workforce Grants, New or Expanded Programs |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Department of Education |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | By May 24, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. local time.  |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | June 1, 2022 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | By June 16, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answers**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section A, Page 2;Section B, Page 3;Application, Page 12 | Can funds be used to offer tuition assistance? Various sectionsof the RFA refer to supports and supportive services to addressstudents’ needs as well as strategies for attracting students. Forlow-income students, tuition assistance is a critical form ofsupport and a significant recruitment tool. |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, if it is a targeted service to support impacted industries. Priority shall be given to disadvantaged populations like students, students with disabilities, and individuals such as new Mainers; Black, Indigenous, and people of color; low-income students; students seeking work in rural communities and unemployed and underemployed workers. Please refer to the RFA for further clarification. |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| SubawardAgreement Section4.b., Page 17 andSection 6.b., Page18 | Are costs of developing the program (incurred after March 3,2021) allowable for reimbursement? |
| **Answer** |
| No, only expenses during the term of the award will be allowed. |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Application, Page 14 | The budget lists “Technology Access” as a category. Does thisinclude the following types of expenditures: equipment forcampus, equipment for students, expanding Wi-Fi and othertechnology infrastructure? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, limited to scope of project only. |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section A, Page 1 | Graduates in business and related fields are in demand acrossall of the targeted industries in high-paying positions necessaryto the success of these businesses (i.e., management,accounting, human resources, technology/cybersecurity). Wouldapplications that include these employment gaps beconsidered? |
| **Answer** |
| No, support for employment gaps is ineligible. |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section C, Page 3 | Can you share more about the application process? We would apply through the University of Maine. |
| **Answer** |
| The grant is for private college and universities. You would have to partner with a private postsecondary of Maine. Eligibility to submit bids is on page 3 of the RFA.  |