New Start Grant Program Pre-Proposal Conference Questions & Answers

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Q: Who should I contact for a letter of support to provide services within Maryland State Correctional Facilities?
A: Danielle Cox, Director of Education for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): danielle.cox1@maryland.gov.

Q: How many awards are being given out?
A: There is no set number of awards that will be given out. Awards will be made as long as funding allows.

Q: Can the proposal/programming be at a juvenile facility?
A: No. The program must include the provision of services to "covered individuals" who are defined as having been convicted of a criminal offense and having completed a term of imprisonment in federal prison, or a State or local correctional facility. Per Maryland Code, Correctional Services Art. § 1-101(d), a Correctional Facility is defined as a facility that is operated for the purpose of detaining or confining *adults* who are charged with or found guilty of a crime.

Applicants are encouraged to review the New Start Grant Program Policy to ensure that their proposal meets the requirements for funding.

Q: Do applicants have to provide a letter of support or MOU, or both?
A: Applicants may choose to submit a letter of support or an MOU depending on the requirements and/or relationship with the partner entity. Applicants do not need to submit both so long as the submitted letters/MOUs satisfy the requirements from the solicitation and policy.

Q: Can private and for-profit companies apply?
A: Yes, all entities that meet the programming requirements may apply and receive funding.

Q: Can an applicant contract with another nonprofit to deliver services like workforce development?
A: Yes, all project partners must be included on the application.

Q: How do we define a "nationally recognized curriculum?"
A: The New Start Grant Program does not endorse a single entrepreneurship curriculum and defers to applicants to research and select entrepreneurship development curriculum that have support from national organizations, US federal government programs, or other national leaders in the field. Applicants must justify the national recognition of their curriculum source in their application.

Q: How many awards can one organization receive?
A: One award per year per organization, with an opportunity to renew as long as program funding is available. Awarded programs will be given instructions on how to complete the

"Letter of Intent" process to seek grant renewal

Q: Is there a specific modality on how to reach students?
A: No, applicants may choose the instruction and/or program delivery modality that works best for their project and is aligned with any requirements put forth by partner entities.

Q: Will incarcerated students have access to technology and in particular, web based platforms and virtual instruction?
A: Applicants may choose to incorporate the use of technology, such as web based platforms and virtual instruction into their curriculum so long as they have first received approval from their partners to do so.

Q: Does the grant program exclusively serve incarcerated individuals?
A: The New Start Grant Program is intended to serve "covered individuals" as defined in the New Start Grant Program Policy on page 4 as well as currently incarcerated individuals. For currently incarcerated individuals, applicants must only demonstrate their ability to hold a business plan competition within a correctional facility..

Q: Can inmates receive awards for a business plan competition?
A: Applicants should communicate with their federal, state, or local corrections partners to determine what, if any, awards can be given to incarcerated individuals participating in the business plan competition.

Q: Can the grant pay for staffing?
A: Yes.

Q: Will additional funding be available for this program?
A: The Maryland Department of Labor will be allocated $200,000 annually through fiscal year 2028.

Q: What are indirect costs?
A: The State of Maryland does not have a singular definition of indirect costs but applicants should be clear about costs that support programming, such as administrative overhead, fees, and other costs that do not directly relate to delivery of services. Questions about program budgeting can be directed to Dorothee Schlotterbeck (dorothee.schlotterbeck@maryland.gov).