



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Youth Cowlitz-Wahkiakum County Information Session RFP - Questions and Answers 01.09.23

Question: Is there going to be two contracts, one for Cowlitz/Wahkiakum and one for Clark County or is the contract for both?

Answer: *You can propose for Clark only or Cowlitz/Wahkiakum only or you could propose for both.*

Question: For the functional leadership system listed in the RFP, is this based on the current model at NEXT or is it a model that will be changing?

Answer: *It is changing from the current model within NEXT.*

Question: Where do you go to find the RFP document?

Answer: *The RFP document can be found here on the WSW website <https://workforcesw.org/investments/investments-funding-opportunities>*

Question: Could you provide a little bit of background on the existing program and the group of organizations that is already operating the program. Could you talk about the motivation for the RFP and if you are looking for anything different?

Answer: *For Federal funds, we have to procure every three years for service delivery. Some changes include the functional leadership system and the consortium of at least seven partners in the center, other changes are welcome. For what is currently happening at NEXT, a great place to look would be the NEXT website <https://nextsuccess.org/> to see what is going on and comparing to what the RFP is asking for moving forward.*

Question: With the existing program, is there a backbone organization currently or who is responsible/accountable for operating the program?

Answer: *Our current provider is Equus Workforce Solutions at the NEXT center in Vancouver for Clark County. In Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Counties it is NEXT branding but its out of the Longview Goodwill office and the provider is Equus Workforce Solutions and Goodwill.*

Question: Further explanation needed about the seven required partners.

Answer: *A partner that provides the core components (lead of Title 1 funding); a partner that employees the functional leadership system (only role would be to employ the NEXT Director, NEXT Office Manager, and NEXT Outreach Specialist) which would support the entire NEXT system of all partners who are at the center; a partner who would provide leadership/entrepreneurship development for participants; and a partner who helps participants earn their GED or equivalent. The three additional partner requirements to that seven, need to support individuals from the priority populations listed in the RFP.*

Question: What you envision the roll of the community college in this partnership or consortium?

Answer: *It would be great if community colleges would provide CASAS and be co-located to encourage or counsel those interested in Post Secondary.*

Question: Is the funding spread to support all organizations in the proposal?

Answer: *Yes, it can be. It's up to the organizations, for the tier requirements (tier 2 and tier 3) outline that to meet those partnerships some sort of financial support should be offered to those organizations. Tier 1 does not include that requirement. WSW is encouraging financial support to all partners.*