DATE: April 19, 2017

TO: Currently Contracted City of Los Angeles WorkSource Centers

FROM: Gerardo Ruvalcaba, Director Workforce Development Division

SUBJECT: WDS INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 17-19 REVISED REQUEST FOR INTEREST (RFI) 25 PERCENT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AMERICAN APPAREL – “REFASHIONING WORKERS”

RESPONSES TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS RECEIVED VIA EWDD.PLANNING@LACITY.ORG

Please Note: This bulletin was revised April 19, 2017 - 3:00 PM to include Q&A 19, 20 and 21

EFFECTIVE DATE
This bulletin is effective upon date of issuance.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this bulletin is provide responses to questions asked related to the 25 Percent Additional Assistance – American Apparel “Refashioning Workers” Grant.

BACKGROUND
The Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) released a Request for Interest (RFI) related to the 25 Percent Additional Assistance – American Apparel “Refashioning Workers” Grant. EWDD is leading a regional effort to provide educational, training, and workforce development services to a minimum of 600 displaced workers in the apparel and manufacturing sector. The RFI was released on April 17, 2017. All proposals must be submitted by 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Q1. How long is the contract for? 12 months / 18 months, etc.?
A: The contract will be for 18 months retroactive to January 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
Q2. When do you anticipate the start date / start of services to be?

Q3. By when would we have to have enrolled our anticipated “to be served” number-over the duration of the contract?
A: As soon as possible

Q4. Must all clients be enrolled by a certain date?
A: No

Q5. Is there a required percentage of funds that have to be allocated to training?
A: 50% is to be allocated to training. However, participants can be co-enrolled into Title I dislocated worker formula programs.

Q6. One of the Directive’s Purpose’s, states, it’s soliciting information “from current WSCs on the number of currently enrolled dislocated workers impacted by the complete closure of American Apparel, LLC”. If we don’t have many we are serving, are we eligible to submit for this RFI?
A: Yes, please complete Attachment 1 indicating the current number of participants being served and the number of prospective participants.

Q7. What is the contract period?
A: Please refer to Q1.

Q8. How are you defining “Refashioning”?  
A: Refashioning is a descriptive term for the project targeting Individuals employed by American Apparel in the fashion and garment industry.

Q9. We understand what industry the American Apparel workers are coming from, but must the workers only be placed in that industry?
A: No. Participants do not have to be placed in the fashion industry.

Q10. Will we be given the average wage of the workers when they were employed with American Apparel?
A: No. Participants may provide wage statements. Placements should be in alignment with customer choice, the IEP and local market information data.

Q11. What are the occupations/specific titles did the workers have at American Apparel? Are we helping to place seamstresses, receptionists, tailors, what?
A: This was a complete shutdown of the company. Dislocated workers were employed in all types of positions.

Q12. If awarded, will the workers present their Layoff Letters to us?
A: Yes

Q13. Please clarify the program year on the Current Status Self-Report Form-it says Program Year 2016-2017, but in the chart, the information is requested for program year 2015-2016. Please advise.
A: The information requested should be for program year 2016-17.
Q14: For the preparation of the budget, what is the contract period?
A: As answered in Q1. The term of the contract will be retroactive to January 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (18 Months).

Q15: The average cost of participant is listed at $3,795, what is the training set aside requirement and supportive service minimum?
A: Training set-aside – 50%
Supportive Service minimum – 10%
Not all participants may need training. All participants may be co-enrolled in Title I Formula/Dislocated Worker funds.

Q16: Will you allow stipend for classroom training activities.
A: No. Stipends are not allowed using Adult/Dislocated Worker funds, however “needs related payments” may be made under certain circumstances as discussed in WIOA Final Regulations – Sections 680.930 through 680.970.

Q17: Will EWDD consider to move back the RFI submission deadline beyond 4/20/17. This RFI has 3 days turnaround time.
A: No

Q18: For the RFI, will the former American Apparel workers be identified for us? Please advise.
A: EWDD will work with the Employment Development Department (EDD) and American Apparel to assist with recruitment.

Q19: Is there a cap for maximum and minimum proposed funding amount?
A: No

Q20: The form attached to RFI 25% Additional Assistance Grant American Apparel, “Current Status Self-Report Form”, shows an actual date of 3/31/2016. I believe this should be 3/31/2017 – is this correct?
A: The actual date is 3/31/2017.

Q21: Does the RFI have to be submitted with a wet signature?
A: A wet signature is preferred but an electronic signature maybe acceptable.

WDS CONTACT
For questions regarding the transmission of this bulletin, please contact Chris Rajapakse at (213) 744-7175, TTY (213) 744-9395.