

March 8, 2024

Lynn Larson
Deputy Assistance Director
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services

Ms. Larson,

On behalf of the ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County workforce development system, please accept this request for available funding as offered via DES ALERT 24-001 PY21/FY22 "One Time Funding Opportunities". This proposal is to procure and implement a cloud-based participant referral, tracking and reporting system.

Our request is for **\$160,000**. This request will allow us to cover the base subscription costs for a One Stop Operator Portal – allowing systemic integration of partner communication and referrals. For future sustainability, we will be discussing this with partners as part of our Infrastructure Funding Agreement.

The requested amount is based on preliminary conversations with a vendor already under contract with Mohave/LaPaz and Navajo counties for setup costs and three years of access. Actual costs will be determined based on a formal procurement process conducted by Pinal County in accordance with all applicable regulations and policies governing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It is the goal of ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County to secure a platform to be implemented no later than June 30, 2024.

We believe that with the local workforce areas of Mohave/LaPaz and Northeast Arizona already approved or funding for the implementation of a common system, with a cross section of partner buy-in, it is an opportunity for ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County to align effort in the delivery of services to our customers. This system-focused effort aligns with the goals outlined in 20 CFR 682.210 by aiming to:

- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing between ARIZONA@WORK partners
- Increase participant placement rates and reduce service redundancy
- Improve overall efficiency and effectiveness of the One-Stop system

Rationale/Need for Project Funding:

The need for funding to purchase such a platform is evident in the growing demand for efficient and effective ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County services. The current process being used is a result of attempting to overcome partners using various platforms based on their respective funding streams for tracking and reporting services, resulting in manual data entry on a spreadsheet to track referrals between partners. This leads to time-consuming and system inefficiencies, leading to delays in service delivery and missed opportunities for ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County customers.

By using a cloud-based platform, we aim to address these challenges and enhance the overall effectiveness of ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County services provided to the community by having all partners on a single platform for referrals and basic customer information exchange.

A cloud-based common platform will allow for the facilitation of a seamless integration to enhance services for job seekers in Pinal County. This technology is intended to be used extensively by all ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County partners. Developing this innovative approach is in line with the intent of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and a key component of both the ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County Memorandum of Understanding and four-year ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County Workforce Development Plan.

Populations Served:

1. **Unemployed individuals:** The project targets those who are currently without employment and seeking job opportunities to support themselves and their families.
2. **Underemployed individuals:** This includes individuals who are employed but seeking better job prospects or additional opportunities to improve their financial stability.
3. **Individuals with Barriers to Employment:** The project is committed to serving individuals with barriers to employment such as veterans, low-income individuals, justice involved, and individuals with disabilities who face unique barriers to employment.

Service Areas or Geographic Areas:

ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County encompasses both urban and rural regions within the geographic vicinity. We aim to address the unique challenges and needs of job seekers who face transportation and other barriers to access services. This platform will allow for enhanced communication amongst partners and community resources regardless of location.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Increased access to career and training services for job seekers through a centralized and streamlined platform.
2. Improved efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery, leading to quicker referral follow-up times and better outcomes for job seekers.
3. Enhanced collaboration and communication among ARIZONA@WORK Pinal partners and community partners, leading to a better understanding of services provided and improved coordination of support.
4. Identification and flagging of job seekers in need of immediate services, enabling timely intervention and support.

Measurement of Success:

Success will be measured through various metrics, including:

1. Number of job seekers served through the cloud-based participant referral, tracking and reporting platform.
2. Reduction in time spent on administrative tasks related to tracking and linking job services.
3. Increase in successful job placements and employment outcomes for job seekers.
4. Feedback from partner agencies and job seekers on the usability and effectiveness of the cloud-based participant referral, tracking and reporting system.
5. Long-term sustainability and scalability of the project beyond the funding period.

Performance and Accountability:

The project team will establish clear performance metrics and reporting mechanisms to track progress and ensure accountability throughout the project lifecycle. Regular monitoring and evaluation activities will be conducted to assess the implementation of the cloud-based participant referral, tracking and reporting system and measure its impact on ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County service delivery and outcomes.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,



Joel Millman

Director

ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County

Cc: Harold Christ, Chair, Pinal County Workforce Development Board
Carol Gardner, ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County One Stop Operator (CPLC)
Carrie Fike, Fiscal Agent, ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County
Moriah Robles, Compliance and Monitoring Specialist, ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County