

1. Would it be a conflict for the current OSO contractor to respond to the Youth Career Service Provider(s) RFP?

The State Workforce Board prohibits the OSO from serving as a Career Services Provider under the One Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement Policy. It is clear that the federal law allows the OSO to also serve as a CSP. In light of this, if the OSO elects to bid, the Northern Middle Board is willing to ask the state to waive this policy as it limits competition. However, it is unknown if the state would consider such a waiver.

Workforce Services Policy – One-Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement

I. Competitive Procurement Requirements for One-Stop Operator and Career Service Provider:

The minimal requirements, to inform LWDBs in developing the competitive procurement documents (request for proposals) at the local level, are listed at the end of this section. Each RFP for the OSO and CSP must include the duties set forth in currently-existing federal regulations, which define the OSO's role within the workforce system⁴. Under this policy, the State strengthens federal guidance—which states that OSOs can be CSPs⁵—to require that the OSO and CSP be different entities. This requirement creates a natural firewall between the OSO and CSP to ensure compliance with roles and duties. In addition, the LWDB is expected to procure multiple service providers to ensure proper coverage of effective youth, adult, and dislocated worker services. This competitive procurement for the OSO and Service Providers must take place, at minimum, every four (4) years⁶. The LWDB may choose to procure more than once every four (4) years.

2. The RFP states onboarding and transition will be negotiated prior to the start of the contract. Would this onboarding and transition include staff employed with the current CSP transitioning to one of the new/additional youth providers?

It is not the Board's intent for current CSP staff members to transfer to new youth providers. However, if an employee elects to transition, then the Board will work with both contractors to provide for a seamless transition. The Board will work with all contractors to ensure goals and performance objectives are achieved.

3. Is this proposal a bid for contracts for an agency to serve as the new Youth CSP for the NMTWB, or is this simply a \$100,000 grant an organization can apply for to receive funding from the existing WIOA Youth Provider?

This is a separate procurement and is not a part of the current provider's contract. The Board is looking to fund targeted proposals for youth services.

4. If this is a grant, do qualifying students still need to enroll in WIOA services?

The funding source is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant, thus all participants must be eligible for WIOA.

5. If this is a grant, are we able to identify one target population we would like to work specifically with? Example: students with disabilities.

Yes, you can serve a target population as long as they are eligible under WIOA

6. Is the age range for in-school youth 14 – 18 and out-of-school youth 16 – 24?

An OSY is an individual who is: (a) Not attending any school (as defined under State law); (b) Not younger than age 16 or older than age 24 at time of enrollment;

An ISY is an individual who is: (a) Attending school (as defined by State law), including secondary and postsecondary school; (b) Not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability

who is attending school under State law) older than age 21 at time of enrollment. However, the Board is specifically targeting in-school youth that are juniors or seniors in secondary school or youth in postsecondary school.

7. Can we use dollars to plan training opportunities that would impact all students in a school district/county, including those enrolled in WIOA – or does it still need to be WIOA enrolled students ONLY?

Students may benefit from WIOA materials such as career exploration, however, all direct funding must be expended on WIOA students.