

DEED Office of Adult Career Pathways – SFY 26/27 Adult Support Services RFP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. The RFP has a link to join the information meeting, but it doesn't say anywhere in the RFP what time the meeting is at. Do you know when it will be?**
 - a. As stated on page 15 of the [Adult Support Services RFP](#), “An informational webinar will be held for interested responders on: Friday, August 22nd, 2025, at 1:30 p.m”.
- 2. I'd like to know whether the supportive services grant covers the following 3 things:**
 - I. Laptops for participants (to support our digital training)
 - II. Fees for participants to obtain a driver's license (to help them get to internship or job)
 - III. Fees for tickets that might prevent participants from driving (towing, registration lapse, etc) (same reason as above)
 - a. Support services are allowable costs under the Adult Support Service Competitive grant. Please review the guidance regarding allowable and unallowable support services in the [Adult Career Pathways Cost Category Guidance](#) on pages 18-20.
- 3. How long do you expect the job retention goal to be? 6 months?**
 - a. All Adult Career Pathways grants must provide retention and follow up services to participants obtaining unsubsidized employment as outlined in the grant contract, or for 90 days, as long as funds are available and prior to the grant close date.
- 4. I'm not sure if I'm reading the rfp right. It seems like year one of the grant will be around six months - time of signed agreement to 6/30/26 and year to is 7/1/26 to 6/30/2027. But the grant will be broken out equally over each year. Is this correct? Any suggestions on how to budget knowing that it will take time to implement and likely more costs would be incurred in year two than year one?**
 - a. The awarded amount will be split in half and awarded in state fiscal year 2026 and 2027. The funds do not have to be split equally among the cost categories between SFY 2026 and 2027. The first-year funds (SFY 2026 funds) are available on the date that all parties sign the contract and through June 30, 2027. Year two funds (SFY 2027 funds) will be available July 1, 2026, and through the term of the grant.
- 5. Is there a list of previous grantees and amounts or is this a new grant?**
 - a. The Adult Support Services Competitive grant is not a new grant. The Office of Adult Career Pathways' [main webpage](#) contains tiles for each grant program. If you click on the [Adult Support Services](#) tile, you will find a press release that contains the names of the previous Adult Support Services grantees.
- 6. Are we able to request evaluation scores for our applications (whether approved or denied)?**
 - a. Once awards are announced and contracts are fully executed, you can submit a Data Request for this information on the [Data Practices Webpage](#).

- 7. Regarding the requirement of pre-enrollment academic assessment: can you give an example of this? Most programs we're aware of don't require this. Can you give some examples of the assessments?**
 - a. Please see pages 9 – 10 of the [Adult Career Pathways Operations Guide](#) for requirements and examples on academic assessments.
- 8. Are the support services with this grant more flexible than some other funding streams? I am thinking about some of the unique things that, re-entry or justice involved persons need.**
 - a. All Adult Career Pathways grants must follow the same guidance for offering support services. Guidance regarding allowable and unallowable support services is available in the [Cost Category Guidance](#).
- 9. If a training credential program is recognized by the state's D.E.V.E.L.O.P. program, does that meet the grant requirements?**
 - a. As stated on page 2 of the [Adult Support Services Competitive Grant Application Packet](#), “All training providers must be [Minnesota Office of Higher Education](#) compliant or compliant with regulatory body with oversight as applicable”.
- 10. Can you please review the target populations for this grant again?**
 - a. Please refer to page 9 of the [Adult Support Services RFP](#) for the Target Populations section.
- 11. Was there something mentioned about women and veterans being a target population also?**
 - a. As stated in the [Adult Support Services informational webinar](#), the Office of Adult Career Pathways RFPs support programs and services designed to improve economic opportunities for people of color, women, people with disabilities, and/or veterans in Minnesota. For the target populations pertaining to Adult Support Services Competitive grant, please refer to page 9 of the [Adult Support Services RFP](#).
- 12. I want to make sure we're applying the 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines correctly for the Adult Support Services RFP. Can you confirm that we should treat an adult applicant as a family of one unless they have a spouse and/or dependents—at which point the family size would include those members? Does it matter what their living situation or guardianship status is?**
 - a. Please refer to page 18 of the [Adult Career Pathways Operations Guide](#) for how to calculate income for the [Federal Poverty Guideline](#).
- 13. We are in the process of creating a new financial literacy program, but we want all of our clients to be able to access the program and not just employment services clients. Does the financial literacy program need to have ties to our employment services program in order to use the Adult Support Services grant to cover expenses?**
 - a. Per the [Adult Support Services Competitive Grant Application Packet](#), exits to employment is a measurable outcome that all applicants must project based on the overall participants to be served with the Adult Support Services grant funds. On page 13 of the [Adult Support Services RFP](#), “All programs funded in whole or in part by state

funds are subject to the requirements in the RFP, and as found in [Minnesota Statute 116L.98 Workforce Program Outcomes](#)".

- 14. If our organization has written support services into other DEED applications/grants, can we co-enroll those participants in Adult Support Services to cover services that are not fully funded?**
 - a. Co-enrollment is allowed, please refer to page 17 of the [Adult Career Pathways Operations Guide](#).
- 15. If Support Services grants are meant to enhance other funding sources/braid resources, can the outcomes be shared with another DEED grant? (As an example, can exit to employment be reported for one person in both grants?)**
 - a. Yes, if services received by the participant from the Adult Support Services grant supports the participant in the other DEED grant. Please review the co-enrollment section on pages 14-15 of the [Adult Career Pathways Operations Guide](#).
- 16. The Adult Support Services rfp states that services "must serve to enhance an existing or develop a new workforce development program within your organization" yet the application is written similarly to DEED pathway applications—for a pathway that is already developed with existing partnerships. If applying to develop a new pathway, it could mean that an organization would report no enrollments or outcomes in year 1. Is this outside of the intention of the rfp?**
 - a. Applicants should plan for their program to begin and end within the term of the grant for state fiscal year (SFY) 2026-2027.
- 17. Is it appropriate to say that this rfp is intended to launch or pilot a new pathway rather than to fund the development (pre-launch/pre-pilot) of a pathway?**
 - a. The Adult Support Services funds can be utilized for the development, implementation, and wrap-up of a new pathway. Per the [Adult Support Services RFP](#), "The Adult Support Services Competitive Grants must provide services to enhance an existing or develop a new workforce development program within your organization to provide individuals services such as job training, employment preparation, internships, job assistance to parents, financial literacy, and academic and behavioral interventions for low-performing adult students". Applicants should plan for their program to begin and end within the term of the grant for state fiscal year (SFY) 2026-2027.