

## DEED Office of Adult Career Pathways – SFY26/27 Drive for Five – Industry Sector Training RFP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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1. **The [Drive for 5 RFP](#) references a webinar on 8/22/25. Can you tell me what time the webinar will be and how to attend?**
  - a. Please go to DEED's [Competitive Grants and Contracts webpage](#) and click on the tab for the Drive for 5 - Industry Sector RFP. If you scroll down below the links to the RFP and application, you'll see the "Technical Assistance" section. The "Technical Assistance" section contains a link to the webinar.
2. **Are first year funds available after June 30, 2026 or are any remaining first year funds forfeited after that date?**
  - a. SFY2026 funds are available through June 30, 2027. SFY 2027 funds will be available on July 1, 2026.
3. **Do the specific occupations within those sectors need to be ones that are listed on the tables listed in the RFP?**
  - a. Applicants may submit a proposed career pathway that they have identified as meeting the Drive for 5 industry sector requirement.
4. **If an applicant currently has SFY24-25 Drive for 5 funding and is awarded SFY26-27 funding, how would that org handle the overlapping time period when both grants are active?**
  - a. If an applicant currently has SFY24-25 Drive for 5 funding, is still spending down that funding, and is awarded funding for either of the SFY 26-27 Drive for 5 programs, they will not be able to co-enroll participants in Workforce One into both SFY24-25 and SFY26-27 Drive for 5 funding streams.
5. **Does the language identify what professional services are included?**
  - a. Please refer to Tables 1-5 on pages 17-20 of the [RFP](#) and/or [Labor Market Information Occupations in Demand](#) for more examples. DEED's [Data Center](#) also offers additional data tools. Applicants may submit a proposed career pathway that they have identified as meeting the Drive for 5 industry sector requirement.
6. **Retention incentive: What if they are exited to one employer but then leave and take another position with a new employer. Must they remain with the original employer? If no, do we start the 90 days upon their new start date with the new employer?**
  - a. Programs will be able to request a Job Quality Incentive for placing individuals in permanent, full-time employment (averaging 32+ hours/week) within their trained industry, at a wage of at least \$23/hour in Greater MN or \$25/hour in the Metro. Programs will be able to request additional Job Quality Incentive payments for participants **retaining the initial job placement** at or above \$23/hour (Greater MN) or \$25/hour (Metro) for 90 days or more.

- 7. To clarify, are applications due October 3, 2025, which is a Friday not a Monday? Or was it supposed to be Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>?**
- a. All applications must be time-stamp received to [ACPgrants.deed@state.mn.us](mailto:ACPgrants.deed@state.mn.us) by 5:00 PM CST, on Friday, October 3, 2025.
- 8. Is there a required font size or type for the application?**
- a. The application is a fillable PDF, so there is no required font size or type. The font size and type settings are pre-configured within the application. Some of the text boxes will expand as you type, but please be concise and thorough with your answers.
- 9. Within the fillable PDF, the text boxes do not allow you to write more than what fits in the box at font size 12, so I was curious if that's because of a character limit or just how the PDF is defaulting?**
- a. An amendment and updated application were posted to DEED's [Competitive Grants and Contracts webpage](#) on August 25, 2025 which incorporated technical updates to the text fields.
- 10. Will a Drive for 5 RFP be released again next year at this same time for FY27-28?**
- a. The Adult Career Pathways programs are funded on a biennial basis, with RFPs released every two years. If the Drive for 5 Initiative is funded again, it would be during the next biennium: State Fiscal Years 2028-2029.
- 11. Are we able to deny training to an applicant if we feel they would not be a good candidate to be successful even though they meet eligibility criteria? For example, if they notify us they have no intention to get a job in that particular field.**
- a. Program enrollment criteria must align with the objectives of the RFP and be applied consistently. Participants enrolling in Drive for 5 – Industry Sector Training programs must meet eligibility requirements and demonstrate readiness for success in advanced credentialed or post-secondary training. Programs should prioritize transitioning participants from credentialed training to paid work-based learning opportunities, with the ultimate goal of securing employment or achieving career advancement.
- 12. Do we have to use that application template or can we put everything in word as long as it's the same format? It just seems there is not a lot of room in those boxes for responses. In comparing our 1<sup>st</sup> RFP, the answers are a lot longer than the character limits in the boxes.**
- a. Please see the answer to Question #9.
- 13. I currently have a LEAP (Labor Education Advancement Program) grant and a CLEO (Clean Economy Occupations) grant that I am trying to wrap up, just wondering if we would be eligible for the Drive for 5 grant at this time?**
- a. Eligibility would be dependent on the Terms and Conditions of the LEAP and/or CLEO grants. See page 6 of the [RFP](#) for Applicant Eligibility.
- 14. Our team has the following question in regards to eligible applicants under the Drive for 5 Industry Sector Training Competitive Grant: With the understanding that grant funds can only be used to serve adults (18+), are independent public school districts eligible to apply under the "local government units" applicant category? The inclusion of districts in this category seems to depend on context and definition in statute, so we hoped you might clarify.**

- a. Independent public school districts are eligible to apply for the Drive for 5 – Industry Sector Training Competitive Grant, provided they propose to serve eligible populations. Secondary/high school students are ineligible for Adult Career Pathways programs unless specifically stated otherwise in the Request for Proposal. ABE/GED students are eligible as long as they meet the Minnesota Department of Education requirements for enrollment in ABE/GED services. For Eligible Populations, please see page 7 of the [RFP](#).
- 15. I was reviewing the direct customer training guidelines for the Drive for Five grant and noticed that a portion can be allocated toward participant wage and fringe benefits (Page 16). We plan to apply with our non-profit partner for our registered apprenticeship program. We are both sponsor and employer in our apprenticeship. Our apprentices participate in on-the-job training four out of five days each week, and from the language in the grant it seems that work-related experiences and on-the-job training may be allowable. Could you confirm if we would be able to include these wages in our Drive for Five grant application?**
- a. Wages for proposed paid work-based learning opportunities under the Drive for 5 – Industry Sector Training RFP may be budgeted under the Direct Customer Training cost category. Please see page 8 of the [RFP](#) for the definition of On-the-Job Training.
- 16. Can SFY26 – 27 Drive for 5 Industry Training awardees co-enroll participants in other SFY26 – 27 DEED ACP grants if awarded? (NOTE: We do notice that #4 in the FAQ addresses co-enrolling participants in overlapping years of Drive for 5 funding, but we are inquiring about co-enrolling SFY26 – 27 Drive for 5 participants in, e.g., SFY26 – 27 P2P funding.)**
- a. Co-enrollment of participants in Drive for 5 – Industry Sector Training and SFY26-27 Pathways to Prosperity, Women’s Economic Security Act, Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Relief, and/or Adult Support Services competitive grants would not be allowable.
- For additional information on co-enrollments, please see page 14 of the [ACP Operations Guide](#). For specific information on SFY24-25 and SFY26-27 Drive for 5 co-enrollments, please see the answer to Question #4.
- 17. Our organization supports seniors (over 55 years) in providing part time office clerk and front desk receptionist positions at our office buildings and community centers. These individuals are part of a workforce development program where our social service programs provide soft skill supports and direct supports and training certifications. Would this be an eligible pathway for professional services?**
- a. Participants enrolling in Drive for 5 – Industry Sector Training must demonstrate readiness for success in advanced credentialed or post-secondary level training. Programs should prioritize transitioning participants from credentialed training to paid work-based learning opportunities, with the ultimate goal of securing employment or achieving career advancement within a related company or industry at a family sustaining wage of \$23/hour in Greater MN or \$25/hour in the Metro. Please also see the answer to Question #3.