



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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December 21, 2016

Dear Workforce Partners and Stakeholders,

Please find attached the TAP Accelerator: Upskill-Backfill Initiative (UBI) Project Funding Request for Proposals.

As you may know, funding for UBI projects has been provided by Governor Inslee in order to “jump start” the state workforce plan known as *Talent and Prosperity for All* (TAP). The Workforce Board was tasked to create a framework for funding projects that specifically incorporate the use of a strategy model identified as “Upskill-Backfill” when approving and funding pilots or demonstrations that advance the implementation of TAP goals.

“Upskill-Backfill” joins public and business resources to improve the workplace skills of both incumbent workers and new hires—and creates a pathway to gainful employment and wage progression for our job-seeking Washingtonians, especially those at the lowest income levels or who have other disadvantages in the job market.

Our TAP Accelerator Committee, which is made up of a cross-section of the workforce training community, has been working for several months to develop an inclusive funding application process to support the Governor’s Upskill-Backfill Initiative. These expectations include that *“UBI will join public and business resources to improve the workplace skills of both incumbent workers and new hires, and create a pathway to gainful employment and wage progression for our job seeking Washingtonians, especially those at the lowest income levels or who have other disadvantages in the job market.”*

As you review the document please note some key themes that will help you in developing a competitive demonstration project proposal:

1. Focus on sustainability. Successful applications will establish an institutionalized and sustainable approach to UBI service delivery.
2. Grant funds are intended to help the workforce system test new ways of working with existing funds to help sustain the delivery of UBI services.
3. Projects may also identify policy and other barriers that prevent the system from achieving UBI success.

Please note that the final date for submission of applications is February 28th, 2017.

Thanks to the numerous team members across our partnering agencies for investing their time and expertise in building this process.

Please contact me or Patrick Woods at Patrick.Woods@wtb.wa.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eleni", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board