

Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program Grant Opportunity

Legislative History: In the 2022 session, the Florida Legislature passed [House Bill 7065](#) that added section 409.25996 to the Florida Statutes directing the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to award grants to organizations that assist noncustodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child support obligations to become self-sufficient and establish a successful pattern of paying child support obligations. To that end, the Legislature allocated \$7,050,000 in General Revenue.

General Purpose: The Non-custodial Parent Employment Program (NCPEP) will assist non-custodial parents find employment with earnings that allow them to become self-sufficient; increase the payment of child support by the non-custodial parent.

Eligible Entities: governmental, quasi-governmental and nonprofit organizations that assist non-custodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child support obligations, become self-sufficient and establish a successful pattern of meeting child support payments.

Action Requested: Eligible entities must submit NCPEP funding proposals no later than **October 10, 2022**, according to the information below.

A. Participant Eligibility:

- 1) Eligible to work in the United States
- 2) Resident of Florida and the custodial parent and child(ren) must also be residents of Florida
- 3) Required to pay child support
- 4) Unemployed or underemployed and having difficulty paying child support

B. Reporting Requirements: Reporting of participant characteristics to include:

- 1) Demographic information
- 2) Employment status/history
- 3) Educational status/history
- 4) Low-income (i.e. recipient of public assistance or income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level)
- 5) Court order to seek employment, when applicable

C. Catchment Areas:

- 1) Proposals to be based on individual Local Workforce Development Area(s) (LWDA)
- 2) To establish a statewide presence, anticipated awards will be in the Panhandle, North/Central area, East Coast, and West Coast
- 3) The following areas that currently are funded for and operate a non-custodial parent employment program are excluded from this solicitation: Pasco and Hernando Counties (LWDA 16); Hillsborough County (LWDA 15); Pinellas County (LWDA 14) and Miami-Dade County (part of LWDA 23)

D. Statement of Need: State of need for each LWDA to be served – child support arrears, court orders, other relevant data

- E. Experience:** Experience serving noncustodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed (may be the organization submitting the proposal and/or a committed partner included in the proposal).
- F. Partnerships:** If the proposal is being submitted by an organization other than a Local Workforce Development Board, the responding organization must include documentation of an established or proposed partnership with at least one Local Workforce Development Board that will support the project.
- G. Scope of Services:**
- 1) Outreach
 - 2) Orientation, intake and assessment
 - 3) Individual employment plan (IEP) to include provision of individualized labor market information and wrap-around services
 - 4) Life skills, including parenting education
 - 5) Employability skills/job search assistance
 - 6) Supportive services, including braided funding sources
 - 7) Referral to workforce development programs (e.g., Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Wagner-Peyser)
 - 8) Employment placement services
 - 9) Ongoing counseling and services from intake through first six months of employment
- H. Project Service Area:** LWDA(s) to be served
- I. Proposed Budget:** Individual budget for each LWDA to be served
- J. Experience and Qualifications:**
- 1) Experience serving noncustodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed (may be the organization submitting the proposal and/or a committed partner included in the proposal)
 - 2) Recent projects that produce these outputs and outcomes and characteristics of populations served.
 - 3) Staffing level, qualifications, training for each LWDA to be served
 - 4) Managerial oversight, qualifications (include information about related program outcomes and monitoring findings, if any, within the last two years)
- K. Program Outputs and Outcomes:** Each output and outcome will be counted based on non-duplicated participants. Provide the following numbers for each LWDA to be served and types of services to be provided. The number of participants projected to:
- 1) Be enrolled (overall number of participants projected to be served)
 - 2) Successfully complete orientation, intake, assessment, and development of an Individual Employment Plan (IEP)
 - 3) Successfully complete employability and life skills training as per IEP
 - 4) Participate in activities in a workforce development program
 - 5) Be placed in a new position OR upgrade in existing position
 - 6) Retain employment for 180 days at a minimum of 20 hours per week

- 7) Pay child support for three months within six months of employment start date OR employment upgrade date

Also include projected outcomes related to:

- 8) Participants' wages at placement OR upgraded wages