

Abstract
Workforce Innovation Fund Application

Applicant Name: Chicago Workforce Investment Council

Applicant Category: Individual WIB

Lead Applicant City/State: Chicago, Illinois

Areas Served: Cook County (inclusive of the City of Chicago)

Project Name: Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership Integrated Workforce Information System (IWIS)

Funding Level Requested: \$2,600,000 technical costs
\$400,000 evaluation costs (13.3 %)

Project Type: A

Description of Proposed Project:

The Chicago Workforce Investment Council (which will soon be known as the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership “CCWP” due to a reconfiguration of the three local LWIAs¹ into one administrative agency and one workforce investment board for all of Cook County including the City of Chicago) proposes to design, implement and test an integrated workforce information system that contains comprehensive and useful program- and client-specific measures that will support varied reporting capabilities and provide the information necessary to adequately serve the needs of the program clients. Specifically, this improved, integrated workforce information system will reduce the challenges of duplicative data entry, enhance the information available for organization management, and provide funders with a more realistic view of the services provided that lead to positive final outcomes. The overall goal of the initiative is to improve credential attainment, employment and earnings results for client customers by using data-based decision-making to improve the assessment of client skills and barriers, leading to improved referral of clients to services, training opportunities and job openings.

Description of Proposed Evaluation Strategy:

CCWP will secure the services of a third-party evaluator via a Solicitation for Proposal to be issued in project month (1). The evaluator is scheduled to be in place by project month (4). The evaluation will be in two parts: 1) an implementation study, to assess the extent and characteristics of the implementation of the IWIS in the context of the use of the Aptitude, Interest and Demand (AID) model in each of the LWIA’s service providers; and 2) an outcomes analysis, to assess the extent of changes in a variety of implementation, outcome, and impact metrics, in order to set the stage for more rigorous evaluation efforts in the future. The evaluator will also assist CCWP in the

¹ The three LWIAs are: Cook County Works, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, and the Northern Cook County Workforce Board.

development of client progress metrics in support of the AID intake model, and related reform efforts.

Public Contact Information: Karin.Norington-Reaves@cookcountyil.gov