

Request for Information

The North - Central Local Workforce Development Board emits this Request for Information, or RFI, to obtain information of organizations interested in being One Stop Operator of the One Stop Center in the north - central area in Puerto Rico. Responding to this request for information is not a requirement to respond to the Request of Proposal to select the One Stop Operator that will soon be broadcast. The data submitted will not be considered during the operator's evaluation process.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations, for this Request, have the following meanings:

Local Area – North - Central Local Workforce Investment Area

CGU – AJC – North - Central One Stop Center

Local Board – North - Central Local Workforce Development Board

Operator – North - Central One Stop Center Operator

RFI – Request for Information

RFP – Request for Proposal

WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

General Information

Title I in WIOA establishes a system of Local Workforce Investment Areas (Local Areas) which offer training and employment services through their One Stop Centers -American Job Centers (CGU-AJC). In the case of North - Central Local Workforce Investment Area (Local Area), services are offered to the municipalities of Adjuntas, Arecibo, Camuy, Hatillo, Jayuya, Lares, Quebradillas and Utuado, in Puerto Rico. The CGU-AJC is in the municipality of Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

The North - Central Local Workforce Development Board (Local Board) is responsible, in conjunction with the Board of Mayors, of establishing the public policy system of local labor development. Furthermore, the Local Board will make sure that activities develop as they were planned and will offer oversight to the System. One of its functions is to select, through competitive media, the One Stop Center Operator (Operator). To these effects, this RFI is being broadcast. It is our purpose to know the organizations that are available to participate in a Request for Proposal that will soon be published.

Who qualifies as an One Stop Center Operator?

The Operator may be a public, private or non-profit organization, or a consortium of organizations with experience and a history of success which can be verified. The types of organizations that can be One Stop Centers Operators include:

- a. Institution of higher education;
- b. Employment service agency under Wagner-Peyser Law, in representation of the local office agency;
- c. Non-profit private organization (including community-based organizations);
- d. For-profit private organization;
- e. Government agency;
- f. A Local Board can also be Operator. However, Local Boards must compete and comply with the competitive mandatory requirements decreed in 20 CFR 678.605 (c) and 678.615 (a). In the event of a Local Board being chosen, the Governor and the member from the Board of Mayors designated for such decisions must agree with the selection and obtain approval (in a written and signed document) from said member of the Board of Mayors and the Governor;
- g. Another interested organization that can realize the obligations of an Operator. For example, businesses or labor organizations;
- h. Non-traditional schools, such as: night schools, schools for adults or technical schools.

Exception: Elementary or middle schools are not eligible to be Operators.

Operator Role

The basic role of an Operator is to coordinate the provision of all services of the One Stop Center partners and its service providers.

The selected Operator must ensure the compliance of the following conditions:

- a. That the One Stop Center complies with the standards and procedures established in the WIOA Law and its Interpretative Rules.
- b. That quality services are offered to all participating clients and employers in the Local Area.
- c. That all the basic career services are offered to customers.
- d. That all system partners are integrated.
- e. Not to discourage the provision of services to individuals with employment barriers that require training and career path services that take a longer period.
- f. Divulge any potential conflict of interest that may arise from a relationship between the operator and those that provide training, services, goods, etc.
- g. The Local Board may establish other conditions in the RFP.

Other Information

Information related with the Local Plan and other documents may be accessed on: ***www.nortecentral.com***.

The estimated budget for the Program Year, in relation to the Adults, Displaced Workers and Youth Program funds is **\$ 5,484,663.00**. This includes the administrative/operational costs related to the services offered to the participants. The estimated budget for the Operator's operations will be disclosed

in the RFP. The assigned funds vary year by year, taking into consideration the assignment approved by the Congress of the United States of America.

Information on the RFI submission

Responses should be submitted to Ivonne Vázquez at juntalocal@nortecentral not later than May 21, 2018. The response to this request for information is not a requirement to respond to the RFP to select a North - Central Operator that will be soon broadcast. Should an interested party respond this request for information, submitted information will not be considered during the process of selecting an Operator.

Replies to RFIⁱ

- I. Organization name
- II. Type of organization
- III. Mailing address and e-mail address
- IV. Contact person
- V. General Information:
 - a. What are the mission, vision and goals of your organization?
 - b. Who are the customers to whom the services your organization offers are guided?
 - c. What are the services your organization offers?
 - d. What motivates you to participate in the OSO-AJC Operator selection process?
 - e. How did you hear of this RFI?
 - f. Provide any other piece of information you deem relevant.

ⁱ The information will not be longer than two pages.