

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Walmart Foundation National Retail Initiative

Bidders' Conference
April 10, 2018



Agenda

1. Walmart Foundation National Retail Initiative: overview and highlights
2. Evaluation purpose, research questions, research methods, and participation of WDBs
3. Eligible respondents
4. Important dates and submittal procedure

Submit your questions electronically at any time during the webinar.



Walmart Foundation National Retail Initiative Overview



- ReImagine Retail is funded through a \$10.9 million grant from the Walmart Foundation made to The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
- The two-year initiative aims to increase the economic mobility of workers in retail and related sectors and is the largest investment to date as part of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation's Opportunity Initiative
- The Partnership selected 10 national workforce development board (WDB) partners from an Request for Proposals submission process to work with us to demonstrate how public workforce systems could be national leaders in serving both employers and employees within the retail sector at the local level
- Workforce boards added the retail sector to their focus
- Each workforce board launched new retail-based initiatives and added the retail sector to their focus industries



Evaluation Purpose

- Identify insights from experiences of 10 WDBs in implementing sector-based projects under National Retail Initiative
- Document best practices and lessons learned that may inform future workforce development efforts in the retail sector
- Assess impact of National Retail Initiative on capacity of WDBs for working in retail sector in their respective markets



Evaluation Research Questions

Specific questions to be answered by the evaluation:

1. As assessed by the WDBs, which aspects of their implementation of this initiative were successful and which were not?
2. Which specific implementation challenges arose and how did the WDBs address these?
3. How will best practices and lessons learned from this initiative inform future strategies and practices for working in the retail sector, and for workforce initiatives in general?
4. How has participation in this initiative influenced the WDBs' understanding of the retail sector and workforce development opportunities in the retail sector?
5. Which lessons learned may help other workforce development boards and agencies across the nation in implementing retail initiatives?



Evaluation Research Methods

Appropriate research methods and activities to be selected by the evaluator.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Interviews and/or surveys of National Retail Initiative participants, e.g., WDB staff, Retail Advisory Board members, staff of educational partners, job seekers, employers, and other community stakeholders
 - *Interviews may be conducted remotely if not detrimental to study quality*
- Qualitative analysis of project documents from respective WDBs
- Descriptive quantitative analysis of project data from respective WDBs
- Analysis of regional labor market information and national retail sector trends as context for project-specific analysis



Evaluation Participation of WDBs

- WDB staff available to participate in evaluation activities
- WDBs will facilitate contact with other stakeholders as needed



Eligible Respondents

- Any entity eligible to do business with the City of Chicago and Cook County, e.g., for-profit corporations and other business entities, not-for-profit corporations, individual consultants
- Must have conducted or be in the process of conducting at least one (1) evaluation or case study of similar scope and scale (i.e. large multi-year project) within the past three (3) years

Instructions for individual consultants and other entities without organizational financial statements:

- Provide copies of your two (2) largest contracts for similar services within the past two (2) years



Dates and Submittal Procedure

Important Dates

Deadline for question submission	April 13, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. CST
Responses to submitted questions posted	Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Deadline for proposal submission	April 27, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. CST
Announcement of award	May 15, 2018
Award date	June 1, 2018

Submit all questions to RetailCaseStudy@workforceboard.org. Responses to submitted questions will be posted on The Partnership's website and emailed to RFP recipients.

Email the RFP contacts in case of technical problems, etc.

Proposals must be submitted as:

- 1 original signed paper version
- 2 copies of paper version
- 1 electronic version on USB drive or CD

Proposals must be received via hand or mail delivery by the submission deadline at:

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
69 W. Washington Suite 2860
Chicago, IL 60602

