

**Training Gap Analysis
RFP - Issued September 7, 2023**

Questions and Answers

Posted 9/28/2023

1. Could you provide more information about what Advance Central PA seeks from the Asset Map? There are hundreds of online colleges and universities in the United States. Will Advance Central PA work with the vendor to identify selection criteria? Is there a target number of providers? Should certain industries be prioritized?

Answer: The purpose of the asset map is to help Advance Central PA and stakeholders understand who the existing training providers in the nine-county workforce development area are and what they offer. This includes local career & technical education providers, independent training providers, Commonwealth University branches, other colleges and universities, and others. Advance Central PA will be happy to work with the selected vendor to help vet a comprehensive list of providers.

There is not a target number of providers to include, but emphasis should be placed on training providers located within the nine-county region. Training providers who are not located in the nine-county region, including those with online offerings are not of highest priority to include, but could be grouped in a separate category for awareness purposes without the detail requested for the asset map.

The RFP includes a list of industries which should be included in the study (e.g. Advanced Manufacturing, Education- including Early Childhood Education, Energy, Healthcare, Retail, Hospitality, Transportation, and Building and Construction. The study should not be limited to these industries alone. The purpose of this portion of the study is to have an undiluted understanding of training needs according to employer leaders across the nine-county area, therefore, including as many industries as possible will be important.

2. For job seekers, will data be collected from 18+ only or include minors?

Answer: For job seekers, data should be collected from the public including adults and young people 18+, and include data from high school seniors which could include minors. For the high school senior population, the provider will work in direct partnership with Advance Central PA and the local school districts to gather information from students and would not be contacting minors directly.

Please be advised that Advance Central PA must amend the use of the term "job seekers" within the scope of work on page 6 of the RFP. Advance Central PA is interested in collecting data from a variety of individuals age 18+, including job seekers and individuals who are currently working.

3. Approximately how many job seekers and business partners does Advance Central PA have contact information (e.g., email, phone) for data collection?

Answer: Advance Central PA is not planning to limit the study to job seekers and business partners currently in our network. Instead, we are seeking to learn from the broad public what their training interests and needs are and a broad spectrum of employers across industries what they find the greatest training needs to be. If having direct contact information for the job seekers and businesses for whom Advance Central PA will not skew the data in understanding needs comprehensively across the region, this can be discussed further.

4. Could data be collected from job seekers and / or business partners at events during the project timeline?

Answer: Yes, there may be potential to collect data from events, including Industry Partnership meetings and career fairs as part of a broad outreach to comprehensively understand the needs of the region with understanding that the events would be a way to reach Advance Central PA's network of businesses and job seekers.

Posted 10/2/2023

5. Is Advance Central PA seeking feedback and responses from the general public in the 9-county region?

Answer: Yes, it is important that the study is not limited to Advance Central PA's contacts so as to get a true comprehensive understanding of needs from the public.

6. Will Advance Central PA assist in gathering information from school seniors?

Answer: Advance Central PA has connections to the schools and also has subcontractors working with districts across the region. Advance Central PA will help the chosen vendor in gathering required information from the schools/seniors.

7. Can Advance Central PA provide support in collecting data from the general public (i.e., not youth, 18+)?

Answer: Advance Central PA can help the selected vendor make connections to other agencies, local government, and community partners as part of the effort to broadly reach the general public. Other proposed ideas that will result in broad comprehensive participation in the survey are needed.

Posted 10/13/2023

8. Is there a cover sheet and budget form template that should be used?

Answer: Mention of a template cover sheet and template budget form in the Request for Proposals was erroneous; please disregard. Instead respond to all other requirements as written.