



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Jump Start Summers Grants - Request for Proposals

RFP Released: March 30, 2017; Proposals (two pages max) due: April 21, 2017

Jump Start Summers grants are available to launch scaffolded, multi-year summer training sessions - in public school facilities and on employer worksites - that help students prepare for college, career and life success.

Workplace-based learning provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to master essential workplace behaviors and communication skills, while making their academic schoolwork more relevant. This is true for all students - university-bound students as well as career-focused students.

There have been pockets of innovation that have leveraged the summer months and engaged employers to the benefit of Louisiana students: Delta Workforce Ready, YouthForce Nola, and the 2015 Super Summer Safety Sessions (see page 3). Our state needs to build on this foundation of success.

Jump Start Summers grants will offer school districts, charter schools, and course providers with "low hassle / minimal paperwork" funding to launch multi-year summer workplace-based experiences for high school students and recent graduates.

Jump Start Summers will enable students to master essential workplace skills, engage with industry experts, earn a summer wage and attain industry-valued credentials.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking school districts, charter management organizations and course providers willing to sponsor student summer training sessions in collaboration with industry partners.

Sponsoring school districts / charter schools / course providers will receive funding to launch a sustainable student summer training program, as long as they have one or more committed industry partner(s) willing to: a) co-fund the launch of this initiative; and b) provide students with the opportunity to complete on-site job shadowing and/or internships.

These student summer training sessions can be one or more of the following:

- **Rising 10th Graders** – attaining basic safety industry-based credentials (IBCs) and NCCER Core (three weeks), plus a capstone written summary and presentation of the benefits of this initial *Jump Start Summers* session;
- **Rising 11th Graders** – attaining *any* Basic Statewide IBCs and completing a series of career readiness exercises, including a self-assessment and a self-assessment presentation to an unfamiliar workplace adult that earns the student a Micro-Enterprise complementary credential (four to six weeks);
- **Rising 12th Graders and/or Post-Graduation Young Adults** – attaining *any* Basic or Advanced Statewide IBCs, completing on-site job shadowing and/or internships, and completing job attainment exercises that include resume development, job search, mock job interview and business writing exercises (four to six weeks).

Students will receive both a stipend and academic credit for the sessions they satisfactorily complete.

The LDOE will arrange for seed funding of: a) \$500 per student for rising 10th graders (up to 20 students); and/or b) \$1,000 per student for rising 11th graders, rising 12th graders, and post-graduation young adults - diploma or HiSET - prior to October 1 following their graduation from school (up to 30 students). ***This funding will only be available if there is a 1-to-1 match of funding from each applicant's industry partner(s).***

Jump Start Summer grant funds will be provided to districts / charter schools / course providers that demonstrate:

- a) commitments from employer-partners;
- b) compensation for students, in return for student commitment for attendance / engagement;
- c) diversity of students engaged, in terms of background and interests as well as disability;
- d) potential for multi-year sequencing; and
- e) commitment to helping students attain culminating industry-based credentials (IBCs).

Watch videos describing Jump Start on your cellphone: text "VIDEOS" to 99008

Application Requirements

School districts, charter schools, course providers and/or non-profit organizations or employers must submit an application in Word format of no more than two pages that provides the following information:

- 1) Which *Jump Start Summers* sessions they intend to hold, what facility / facilities they will use, and how many students they plan will participate in each session.
- 2) Which industry partner(s) will collaborate to provide instruction, co-fund the initiative and (when appropriate) offer on-site job shadowing and/or internships. *Applicants can indicate which industry partner co-funding commitments are "provisional" pending final session planning;*
- 3) The budget for the *Jump Start Summers* program, assuming they receive the LDOE-arranged seed funding they seek.
- 4) What schedule they propose for their 2017 *Jump Start Summers* program.
- 5) How they envision making *Jump Start Summers* a self-sustaining success in 2017 and beyond.

Proposal / Grant Award Timetable

The Jump Start Leadership Team will hold three conference calls to describe the *Jump Start Summers* grant program and answer questions:

Conference Call 1: 4pm on Monday, April 3, 2017	Call in information: 800.747.5150 passcode 342 3447
Conference Call 2: 3pm on Tuesday, April 4, 2017	
Conference Call 3: 8am on Thursday, April 6, 2017	

Written questions about this RFP should be emailed to JumpStart@la.gov no later than 5pm on Thursday, April 13, 2017. LDOE will provide written answers to all questions by Monday, April 17, 2017.

All parties can email JumpStart@la.gov if they want to receive the written answers LDOE provides to other parties.

All applications should be emailed to JumpStart@la.gov no later than 5pm on Friday, April 21, 2017.

LDOE will indicate which applications have been accepted for partial or full funding no later than April 28, 2017.

All grants will be awarded with a minimum of paperwork and very modest reporting obligations. LDOE Jump Start team members will contact grant winners to obtain information about program plans and student outcomes. At the end of the summer the LDOE will provide draft evaluation reports that the implementing entities will be invited to review and help edit.

The next page provides a copy of the one-page evaluation report for the 2015 *Student Summer Safety Sessions*. This is the type of evaluation report the Jump Start team will create for each sponsoring district / charter school / course provider's implementation of their *Jump Start Summers* program.

Jump Start Summers pioneers will be creating a transformative program that districts, charter schools and course providers across the state - and the country - will be able to emulate.

Jump Start Summers will provide Louisiana students with a paying summer job that will help them master essential workplace behaviors and communications skills, while earning industry-valued credentials that will help them attain post-graduation employment.

Jump Start Summers will also help recent graduates earn IBCs that help them attain entry-level employment while earning retroactive accountability points for their LEAs.



DATE: July 8, 2015
 FROM: Dave Lefkowitz
 TO: Superintendent White, Jump Start Leadership Team (Ken Bradford, Larry Alexander, Lisa French)
 SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF STUDENT SUMMER SAFETY SESSIONS (SSSS)

Key Conclusion - the SSSS program achieved its main objective: proving that Louisiana high school students can successfully earn Jump Start industry credentials during a summer session.

There were many highlights of effective execution leading to superior results:

- Effective planning by ABC-Pelican led to their high completion rate of starting students. ABC-Pelican’s satellite training location at Delta Community College also proved that satellite locations for construction craft training are a future possibility for providing Jump Start training in remotely-located high schools;
- Comprehensive adult engagement enabled Winn Parish students to succeed beyond expectations. Not only did 100% of Winn Parish students earn the targeted credentials (NCCER Core, First Aid, OSHA 10) – two students *and the chaperone bus driver* earned a Fork Lift credential as well;
- Caddo Parish and CC&TC proved that a widely diverse student body could attain these certifications (33% of their cohort was female; the cohort included students in grades 9, 9T, 10 and 11 and one Special Ed student); and
- ABC-Bayou engaged local industry to send guest speakers to complement their student training.

Unfortunately, there were a series of implementation challenges that undermined the total success of the program:

- Lack of sustained pre-session planning left 6 of 10 Monroe City School training slots unfilled (cost: \$4,500); and
- We did not understand the specific challenges regarding student persistence in Nola, outlined in footnote 4 below.

2015 Student Summer Safety Session Statistics by Training Location						
Training Location		Greater Nola	Baton Rouge	Monroe City	SW Louisiana	NW Louisiana
Students From		RSD Charter Schools	Ascension Parish	Winn Parish and Monroe City Schools	Jefferson Davis Parish	Caddo Parish
Training Provider		ABC-Bayou	ABC-Pelican	ABC-Pelican ¹	ABC-Pelican	CC&TC ²
Targeted # Students		20	20	20	20	20
Starting Students		23	19	14 ³	20	21
Completing Students		7 ⁴	18	14	17	20
Credentials Earned	NCCER Core	1	18	14	14 ⁵	20
	First Aid	2	18	14	17	20
	OSHA 10	7	18	14 ⁶	17	20
¹ – ABC-Pelican established a satellite training location in Monroe City at Delta Community College, proving that satellite locations for construction craft training are a future possibility for providing Jump Start training in remotely-located high schools. ² – CC&TC = Caddo Career & Technology Center, a CTE center operated by the Caddo Parish Schools that serves both high school students and young adults. ³ – Winn Parish sent its full allotment of 10 students; Monroe City Schools only sent 4 out to the 10 students in its allotment. ⁴ – This high attrition in Nola was due to a number of factors: a) coordinating students from many different independent schools; b) students who had to take two bus connections to attend this training; and c) competition from programs that offered students paying summer jobs. ⁵ – Three students who partially completed NCCER Core are scheduled to complete this certification during the 2015-2016 school year. ⁶ – Two students <i>and the chaperone bus driver</i> all earned Fork Lift Driver certifications in addition to the targeted credentials!						

Conclusion / Recommendation: the SSSS program was a qualified success. Several aspects of the SSSS experience can be used in future years as “Jump Start Best Practices” to encourage: a) LEAs to set up multi-school cohorts of summer Jump Start trainees; b) working with proven-effective providers; c) encouraged to complete their coursework and attain their credentials by engaged adults working with them *before* and after each summer session.



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Jump Start Summers Grants - RFP-related Q&A

Q1) Is there a standard format for applications?

A1) No. Applicants have complete freedom regarding how they structure their grant applications. While LDOE recommends two-page applications, this is a recommendation and not a requirement. There is no extra credit for the length of an application.

No application will be rejected for technical / formatting / administrative reasons.

Q2) Are there required elements for each application?

A2) Yes. The programmatic requirements for each *Jump Start Summers* program are listed in the bullet points on page 1 of the RFP. All programs must include: a) IBC training; b) soft skills instruction; c) workplace-based learning; d) stipends for students; and e) industry partners that provide at least 1-to-1 match on programming funding.

Applicants can have one or more industry partners. An industry partner can provide all, some or none of the matching funding, as long as the application shows a feasible budget with at least a 1-to-1 industry match. Indicated industry partners can be indicated as "provisional partners pending final agreement."

Q3) Can the contributions of industry partners be "in-kind" contributions?

A3) Yes. In-kind contributions include but aren't limited to: a) instruction; b) use of facilities; c) transportation; d) supplies; e) onsite refreshments; etc.

Applications should show how they valued any in-kind contributions. All reasonable, good-faith calculations of the value of in-kind contributions will be accepted.

Q4) How will grant funds be paid?

A4) We have great flexibility on how these grant funds are paid out. LDOE's intent is to arrange for payment in full in advance (May). If those receiving grants would prefer to receive them in fiscal 2017-2018, that will be easy to arrange. *We will arrange any funding approach that grant winners find advantageous.*

Q5) Can an entity other than an LEA be the fiscal agent and receive funds?

A5) Yes.

Q6) Do we have flexibility on when and where the program is held?

A6) Yes. *Jump Start Summers* programs can be held any time in May - July timeframe, for any length of time that meets the RFP's requirements, at one site or at more than one site. If an applicant has different program elements in their proposal (for example separate sessions for rising 10th graders and rising 12th graders), these separate program sessions can be held at the same time, at different times or at overlapping times.

Q7) How will grant applications be evaluated?

A7) Grant applications must include information responsive to the five application requirements at the top of RFP page 2. Applications that address the five factors (a through e) at the bottom of RFP page 1 in the most comprehensive, creative ways will be most highly rated.