**Dream Fund TA Center Q &A**

As of 12/29

1. At which point in the program/process will we point businesses to the third-party grant administrator? Will we only be sending qualified businesses (after completion of training, consulting) that we are recommending to receive the grant to the platform?
   1. The center will coordinate with the third party administrator once the third-party administrator is fully operational and ready to receive applications from each center. At that point, centers will be expected to help qualified businesses that have completed a Dream Fund training and consulting program apply for a grant.
2. As a TAEP provider, all clients helped as part of the Dream Fund program – can we count that work in our TAEP metrics? We see this as an expansion of our TAEP center work – that will be tasked with performing the technical assistance function of the Dream Fund program.
   1. Yes, work associated with the Dream Fund can be counted towards TAEP metrics.
3. For project reporting, is each quarterly report to cover project activities only within that period? For example, Q3 report only covers July/Aug/Sep activities and Q4 covers Oct/Nov/Dec? Will there be a cumulative end of project report expected in addition to the quarterly report at the end of each reporting period?
   1. Following the initial report, Dream Fund reporting will align with TAEP and quarterly reports and should cover activities conducted during the corresponding quarter. CalOSBA will provide additional information on reporting timing and expectations as part of the grant agreement.
4. Can you clarify that all trainings can be delivered virtually? We anticipate delivering all trainings virtually but consultations/advising may be a blend of in person and virtual.
   1. Training may be virtual if deemed appropriate and effective. Please propose the training that is most appropriate as part of your proposal. CalOSBA will evaluate proposals following the January 5th submission deadline.
5. In the budget, we are required to breakdown the Expected Number of Grants by industry. While this will be an estimate based on our research and data, will we be held to this breakdown? For instance, if we estimate 25% of the grants will go to brick-and-mortar, will we need to ensure 25% of final grantees are brick-and-mortar?
   1. The estimated grant breakdown requested in the budget is meant to be a target that will allow CalOSBA to predict the number of businesses in each category across the network and help estimate the flow of grant funding needed. We would request that the center attempt to be accurate and realistic in its predictions, however, we understand that these are estimates and may change somewhat during implementation.
6. In the enhanced training requirements, please confirm that we will need to target a specific geographic area(s) AND specific industry or industries within that geographic area.
   1. Please refer to the RFP for training requirements specific to Dream Fund programs. CalOSBA has not implemented rules around specific geographic areas or industries. Rather, it is CalOSBA’s expectation that the center proposes trainings that are appropriate for its regional focus and expertise (ie procurement, import/export, childcare, etc – based on current TAEP agreement, programming and expertise). It is also CalOSBA’s expectation that, as with TAEP, centers will ensure that trainings reach underserved groups.
7. Is there a specific time on January 5 that this is due?
   1. Please submit your application no later than 5pm.
8. We understand that each small business is eligible to receive the grant upon completion of the training and consulting. Are the businesses eligible once they complete the general business training program or must they also complete the enhanced/regional program curriculum? Is it up to each center to determine?
   1. The Dream Fund is intended to support grants to small businesses that complete **intensive** startup training and one on one consulting. The center should propose a curriculum designed to provide intensive training and consulting that meets the requirements established in the Program Announcement. Centers will also propose a number of businesses that will participate in their dream fund programming as part of the proposal. Businesses that complete the a Dream Fund training curriculum (intensive training and one on one consulting), and meet the qualifications for an eligible business would be eligible for a grant.