

Michigan Regional Skills Alliance[®]
2008 RFP Pre-Bid Webinar
Questions & Answers

1.) Please give further information on RSA expansions.

Applications for a MiRSA expansion need to meet the criteria set forth in the RFP. The State of Michigan recognizes that employers may identify the need to expand the geographic region of an industry sector and/or broaden current MiRSA activities as employers identify other workforce issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, applications for a MiRSA designation that are within the same industry sector and similar geographic region will be reviewed if:

1. The New MiRSA is proposing to merge with an existing MiRSA to:
 - a. Expand the industry base
 - b. Expand the region

OR

The existing MiRSA is expanding the geographic region or the industry base.

More information about expanding MiRSAs is listed on page 8 of the RFP application.

2.) Is the grant \$400,000 for one or two years? Is there a limit on what an existing MiRSA can ask for?

The \$400,000 amount is the total funding we have for MiRSA initiatives this year. Although there is not a maximum amount of funding you may apply for, the average request for funding is expected to be between \$80,000 - \$90,000. Grants funds are meant to jumpstart MiRSA development. Grants are for the first two years of the three-year period, and cannot be carried forward during the third year.

3.) Can a MiRSA region be larger than the labor market area?

Yes. The region addressed by the application can be as large as needed to address the identified industry sector or geographical locale. There are MiRSAs that are statewide in region.

Please note: MiRSA Regions should be larger than a single county.

4.) Do existing MiRSAs need to maintain the same partnerships?

No, it is our hope that the applicant would expand the existing partnership base developed in the initial grant if you are planning on applying for an expansion of an existing MiRSA.

5.) Please clarify who can submit an RFP application.

If the applicant meets all the requirements for funding they would be considered for MiRSA funding. All the requirements are listed in the RFP application. The applicant and convener do not necessarily need to be one in the same entity. Applicants can be an organization selected by the partners to submit the application on behalf of the MiRSA, and serve as the fiduciary responsible for proper use of state and federal funding sources. The convener is the champion and organizer of the MiRSA and is a key player in the community with a role of solving workforce needs of the industry within the targeted region. This grant cannot be geared toward training individuals in one individual company. If training activities were involved, they would need to be open to all employers in the consortia.

6.) Are there any groups on the line that have received a grant in the past?

Yes. Some past grantees participated in the webinar.

7.) If an existing RSA wants to expand geographically and also to expand on the current program, should they submit two separate RFPs or combine the requests?

A single expansion proposal should be submitted.