

## **RFGA Informational Session – FAQ Responses to RFGA: AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot**

### **Where can we get a copy of this presentation?**

The presentation materials will be uploaded here:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/workforce-development/funding-opportunities>

### **Do we need to fill out the Wage B form and the other form linked on the last page of the application?**

No. Those forms are not required as part of this RFGA process. They will only be required should you be selected to receive funds *and* this project gets funded by the EDA.

### **Where do we access the spreadsheet?**

The spreadsheet is linked directly within the applicable Google Form. Please keep the Google Form open while completing the spreadsheet in order to maintain your progress.

### **Does Life Sciences/Biotech qualify as healthcare?**

At this stage, we are broadly interested in understanding how AI-enabled technologies are affecting healthcare-related workforce needs, workflows, and occupational pathways. Depending on the nature of the work, certain life sciences or biotechnology employers may align with the intent of the opportunity.

### **Is upskilling laboratory skills with AI augmentations okay, and if the employer is a biotech company is that okay?**

Potentially, yes. We are interested in understanding how AI-enabled technologies are changing skill requirements across healthcare-related settings, including laboratory operations, diagnostics, imaging, administrative functions, and related healthcare support roles.

At this stage, we would encourage organizations to complete the RFGA if they believe they may have relevant employer demand, workforce needs, training capacity, implementation experience, or partnership interest aligned with the goals of the opportunity.

### **The spreadsheet asks “what AI competencies (if any) should be added or developed going forward?” Can you give an example of the level of detail required?**

Responses can be fairly high level. We are not expecting organizations to develop a formal competency model or detailed curriculum at this stage.

A few bullets, examples, or short descriptions of emerging AI-related skills or workflow changes would be completely appropriate.

Examples could include:

- using AI-assisted documentation tools,
- Integrating AI tools into laboratory or administrative workflows
- Ambient note-taking

The goal is primarily to help us understand where organizations are seeing emerging workforce and training needs.

**Will we be informed either way about continuing the process after applications are evaluated?**

Yes. Organizations that submit responses to the RFGA will be informed about next steps in the partnership development and application process.

**Would it work if a nonprofit was training new individuals for employment with AI skills, or does one have to have experience with incumbent workers?**

Yes — nonprofits that train new workers or job seekers can absolutely be part of this work. The program is not limited only to incumbent worker training.

**Could we have some discussion about what the use of AI in healthcare settings is \*for\*?**

Our view is not that AI is automatically or inherently “good.” The technology is already being introduced into healthcare and other sectors, so part of the question is how public institutions help shape its implementation and governance. There are real concerns around bias and potential harm to vulnerable communities, and those issues need to be taken seriously. Ultimately, how this work is approached matters enormously in determining whether these technologies improve access and outcomes.

**I know we are focusing on healthcare providers — would that include nonprofits that provide healthcare-related services or workforce programming?**

Yes. The RFGA includes separate forms for healthcare employers and healthcare training providers. Organizations connected to healthcare service delivery, healthcare workforce development, or related training pathways — including nonprofits providing workforce programming or training services — are encouraged to complete the RFGA if they believe their work aligns with the goals of the opportunity.

**Do we support match through bank statements or budget descriptions?**

We would encourage organizations not to be dissuaded by the match requirement at this stage. Organizations responding to the RFGA are not being asked to formally document or commit match funding at this point.

The RFGA is primarily intended to help us understand what types of resources, partnerships, or supportive investments organizations may potentially be able to contribute as part of a future application and partnership development process.

If the City ultimately moves forward with an EDA application, formal match documentation requirements would be addressed later as part of the federal application process.

**As the City of Boston is applying, would sectoral partners need to be based or headquartered in Boston?**

No. Sectoral partners do not need to be headquartered within Boston city limits. We are interested in understanding workforce and employer needs connected to the broader Greater Boston regional healthcare economy.

**Does a training program need to pledge a specific amount for the match?**

**We would encourage organizations not to view the match requirement as something that should discourage participation in the RFGA process.**

Organizations responding to the RFGA are not required to pledge or commit a specific match amount. The RFGA simply asks organizations to share potential resources or supports they may be able to contribute as part of a future partnership.

**Would it work if a nonprofit was training new individuals for employment with AI skills?**

Yes. EDA's guidance allows training for both new entrants and incumbent workers, particularly where the training is tied to real employer demand and occupational pathways.