

Innovation Grant

Applicant	Ted Oparnico
Applicant ID	APP-000595
Company Name	Ted Oparnico
Recipient Address	Ted Oparnico 1299 N. Orchard St Suite 110 Boise, Idaho 83706
Email	toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov
Funding Requested	\$0.00
Status	Submitted
Funded	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact Information

Question: Lead entity legal name

Ted Oparnico

Question: "Doing business as" entity name (if Applicable)

Idaho Department of Correction

Question: Federal Tax ID Number

82-6000952

Question: Street address

1299 N. Orchard St Suite 110

Question: PO Box (If applicable)

NA

Question: City

Boise

Question: State

Id

Question: Zip Code

83706

Question: Website

<https://www.idoc.idaho.gov/>

Question: First name of person to be contacted about this application

Ted

Question: Last name

Oparnico

Question: Job title

Education Program Director

Question: Street address

1299 N. Orchard St Suite 110

Question: City

Boise

Question: State

Id

Question: Zip code

83706

Question: Email address

toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov

Question: Contact phone

2086582079

Project Overview

Innovation grants can fund projects that address local workforce development needs. Projects may provide skills training to individuals and/or assist individuals with connecting to careers.

Question: Please provide a brief overview/executive summary addressing what you're trying to accomplish with this project. (You are limited to 2000 characters for this section so please be concise.)

The Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) is developing a vocational education program for the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center. The Innovation Grant is a key funding source necessary to facilitate training for current staff to become a Master Trainer through the (NCCER) National Center for Construction Education and Research program. Additionally, this grant will allow IDOC to provide the necessary curriculum and tools to include registration, travel, and housing at the designated training location.

The Idaho Department of Correction currently has Vocational Construction courses established in three men's facilities. IDOC's goal is to be capable of offering those same opportunities to our female residents. The Innovation Grant is a key funding source necessary to facilitate required training for one current staff to become a certified Master Trainer through the National Center of Construction Education and Research (NCCER) program. Additionally, this grant will allow IDOC to provide the necessary curriculum, hand and power tools, and funding needed for course fees and travel expenses at the designated training location.

Question: If training is part of the project, how does it address specific employer-identified skills gaps in the community?

Many industrial and construction company's in Southeast Idaho are in desperate need of skilled labor. NCCER Core is designed as a rigorous, competency-based, industry-recognized program for career and technical education. It is intended for entry level positions within the construction trades. Students will cover such topics as basic construction safety (OSHA-10), hand and power tools, Introduction to blueprint reading, communication and employability skills.

Question: Workforce Development Training Funds are intended to supplement, but not supplant or compete with resources available through existing programs. Are there existing resources available to meet the employers' needs? How are those resources lacking?

Currently, there is no formal, entry level vocational construction training program for residents at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center, (PWCC). Facilitating PWCC to have a certified Master Trainer to teach NCCER Core classes will increase the capabilities of the residents ability to find meaningful employment and cut down on recidivism.

PWCC staff will advertise to industrial/construction trade companies in the area that residents are being released with industry recognized credentials as well as the employable skills sets employers are looking for.

Question: What employment opportunities does the project seek to fill?

Nationally, Idaho is in the top 5 for population growth which demands that skilled vocational employees be prepared for all construction trades. NCCER is a nationally recognized certificate with verifiable credentials that will offer former residents the best chance to be successful in job placement. NCCER Core classes will provide the entry level skills such as basic construction safety (OSHA-10), hand and power tool use, blueprint reading, employability and communication skills, material handling and basic rigging.

Question: How will the project accelerate the pathway to a career for individuals being trained.

NCCER Core training provides entry level construction personnel to enter the workforce, regardless of the trade, with the necessary knowledge and skills to be a successful part of any job-site. This training will provide residents a competitive edge in the job market and offer an employer cost savings in training.

Question: How will the project change and/or enhance the current landscape of Idaho's talent pipeline/development efforts.

Idaho is actively seeking qualified workers in the vocational/construction trades. Former residents are a great resource to contribute and add to the extremely high demand from available employers. What better way to enhance Idaho's landscape of qualified and prepared individuals than to have women already developed and trained to go to work.

Question: Who will provide the training and/or implement the project?

NCCER provides a nationally recognized training program that will be provided to our current instructional staff. This is a train the trainer opportunity. PWCC will send 1 staff member to NCCER Master Training. That individual will be the master trainer for the NCCER Core training that will take place at PWCC. Pocatello Women's Correctional Center (PWCC) will be the institution implementing this project. Currently, no women's correctional facility has this program available. This would be the first. An NCCER Master Trainer at one of our other correctional institutions will provide the initial hands-on training for the first few sessions at PWCC.

Question: Where will the training be provided/project be implemented?

The initial NCCER training is offered in Florida. Pocatello Women's Correctional Center will be the institution implementing this project.

Question: Who will benefit from this project, (Examples - adult job seekers, high school seniors, current employees)?

Those who will most benefit from this project will be any current PWCC resident, individuals heading out on probation/parole, and potential returning residents into the correctional system who starts and/or completes this NCCER Core class curriculum. Multiple employment opportunities would be expanded for any resident receiving a certificate of completion that can be provided to potential employers. Current employers would benefit as well, knowing they opened the door for residents to gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to gain meaningful employment, post release.

Question: List any prerequisites for individuals interested in participating in the project.

Individuals desiring the course are required to have a High School diploma or GED equivalent and complete a basic computer literacy and career planning course. Individuals would be expected to lift 50 lbs. and stay on their feet for up to 4-8 hours on a shift. They must also have the ability to demonstrate a pattern of regularly attending classes and being accountable to show up consistently and ready to work.

Question: How will participants be selected? What are the agreed-upon screening processes, if any?

Participants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis with input from the IDOC education staff and Case Management staff. Those that have demonstrated aptitude in their education and programming classes with respect to regular attendance and appropriate participation will be top priority. Exceptions could be made if a resident is close to release and is in need of skills training to be successful upon release.

Question: What outreach efforts will the team use to encourage under-served populations to participate in the project?

PWCC residents are usually from under-served populations. Due to the training provided in a correctional institution, no outside marketing will be available. Idaho is marketing the Skill Stack badge system - via micro-certifications that are meant to help people master new skills that are validated by an instructor and give employers access to more qualified workers. IDOC in collaboration with Career Technical Education has created promotional videos in efforts to encourage youthful residents and formerly incarcerated individuals to participate in vocational education projects like NCCER.

Question: Please provide a detailed description of why funding is needed for this project?

Idaho Department of Corrections requires the initial capital and funding to send one trainer to the NCCER Master Training course in Florida. Funding would also be used to purchase essential start up equipment for the vocational program. This backing would provide our women the opportunity to pursue the necessary professional technical skills in finding a career in the construction trades and fulfill important roles in building and constructing communities. We want to create a vocational program for women and open up this valuable life changing opportunity to our female population.

Question: Will participants be charged to participate in this project?

As long as the resident is housed in the Idaho Department of Correction, there are no out of pocket fees for residents.

Community-Based Team

Innovation Grants require participation from a community-based team with representation and support from business, education and other community partners as an ideal partnership.

[Letter of Intent](#)

Question: Please describe how the community-based team partners are involved in the project.

NCCER is a nationally recognized vocational education program that has been successfully established in 3 of our 9 facilities for ten years. Our vision is to expand our vocational programs to our other facilities with the opportunities to provide and extend the necessary industry certified job skills that students can utilize in gaining meaningful employment. IDOC has prepared residents with these industry credentials and have landed competitive wage paying jobs.

AGC is our current vocational partner with IDOC. They have supported efforts for over 10 years to provide education and employment training opportunities to residents as well as providing networking with vocational employers for potential employment. However, the women have yet to be part of this. Upon completing the program, students will have a higher potential for gaining employment in the various construction trades. These skills directly relate to what employers are looking for in vocational trades.

Similar to the previous post, CCG is shown here to demonstrate other vocational opportunities are available to our residents and that if taken advantage of, can assist in finding meaningful employment, like AGC.

Also, once other community employers hear that residents are demonstrating they are quality employees, PWCC can be an area for finding credentialed individuals to fill needed vocational trade positions.

Non-Employee partners include: Idaho CTE - Advisory Committee is a board of community partners that is support of providing vocational opportunities for IDOC. Idaho State University was the community partner who informed IDOC of the Innovation Grant specifically for this potential vocational opportunity at PWCC. Work Force Development has been collaborating with IDOC on the Innovation Grant to prepare the application and ensure it has the best chance to be awarded for the PWCC vocational program.

Question: Number of employer partners involved in this project?

2.00

Question: Number of non-employer partners involved in this project?

3.00

Question: Please upload completed Letter of Intent from each community-based partner. A link to the Letter of Intent is provided above.

[IDOC CCG LOI.pdf](#) (12/1/2021 12:20 PM)

[Grant Partner for IDOC.pdf](#) (11/3/2021 12:52 PM)

Project Sustainability

Question: If the community has plans to sustain the project beyond the life of a Workforce Development Innovation Grant, please share. (Not a requirement to receive grant funds.)

With an NCCER Core Trained instructor, classes will be held on a continual basis thereby increasing student interest in the construction trades. We have a committed staff member at PWCC who is invested in seeing this NCCER program take hold and provide the necessary training for qualified residents. "If you build it, they will come" model is the vision for this program. Traditionally, when residents here about potential job placement training and

instruction, the program grows itself. The staff are a huge part of that sustainability for the residents.

Project Schedule

Please provide anticipated numbers/methods to assess the effectiveness of the proposed project. You will only need to complete one form for the project.

- The 24 Month Project Schedule form should only be used when the project includes starting or scaling work-based learning efforts. (i.e. internships, pre-apprenticeship, co-ops, and/or apprenticeship)

[12 Month Project Schedule Form](#)

[24 Month Project Schedule Form](#)

Question: Please provide an anticipated project start date.

5/1/2022

Question: How many training sessions/events will be held during the 12 months of the grant?

29 training sessions will be held during the 12 months of the grant. Sessions will be broken down into 4 quarters throughout the year as outlined in the schedule. 1st Q - 5/5 students, 2nd Q - 7/7 students, 3rd Q - 7/7 students, 4th Q - 10/10 students. The projected course completion each quarter is approximately 6-8 weeks, start to finish.

Question: Please download and complete the project schedule form. The completed form can be uploaded here. To download the form click on the link provided above.

[Innovation Grant Project Schedule \(2\) 11.3.21.xlsx](#) (11/3/2021 12:48 PM)

Project Outcomes

Question: How will employer satisfaction be measured?

Employer satisfaction will be measured by companies that receive NCCER certified and qualified employees as demonstrated through the NCCER National database.

Question: How will participant satisfaction be measured?

Participant satisfaction will be measured by number of residents who land competitive wage jobs in their communities to provide for themselves and their families.

Each class will be given an evaluation based on the completion to provide how the class can be improved and what has worked well.

Question: Total number of individuals served by this project?

29.00

Question: Number of individuals receiving credential(s)?

29.00

Question: Number of individuals already employed who will receive training?

0.00

Question: Anticipated wage gain for individuals already employed? If applicable.

18.00

Question: Anticipated starting hourly wage for individuals entering employment? If applicable.

20.00

Question: What additional metrics do you propose to gather to measure the success of the project?

Additional metrics I propose to measure the success of this program will be the number of residents who sign up to take this class. Current residents who see the opportunities former residents are offered after taking this class will be a great measure to the success of this project. The amount of residents on the waitlist will also be a good measure. The men's NCCER classes are consistently full and usually have a waiting list. I anticipate the women's NCCER classes will be the same.

Budget

The application must provide a detailed explanation of how grant resources will be used to directly support the identified skills training. Provide the line item budget amount and detailed narrative for each item listed below to delineate how Innovation Grant resources will be used. Each line item's narrative should clearly describe how the line item amount was determined, as well as the necessity of the line item to develop/deliver the project.

- The 24 Month Budget Sheet should only be used when the project includes starting or scaling work-based learning efforts. (i.e. internships, pre-apprenticeship, co-ops, and/or apprenticeship)

[Budget Sheet - 12 Month Projects](#)

[Budget Sheet - 24 Month Projects](#)

Question: Why do you think WDTF is a good source of funding for this project?

Pocatello Women's Correctional Center is longing for a vocational education program. This funding source would be the catalyst to building a solid foundation and bring much needed energy and hope to the education department and students at PWCC. They will see the importance of obtaining the foundational education skills via their GED completion which will propel students to continuing pursuing education/vocational opportunities and the life time benefits for completing such a program. Having this project funded by the WDTF would add a tremendous amount of creditability to our education/vocational offerings at PWCC. It would be amazing to see this become a reality.

Question: How else have you sought to fund this project?

IDOC uses grant funds for Special Education, Title 1, Adult Basic Education, and Carl Perkins. All of these grants already have line items outlined and targeted use in their budgets. If any funds were available, we would use them. Unfortunately, that is not an option. This WDTF grant was presented to IDOC and thought to be a perfect fit for our needs.

Question: Please download the attached budget. A link to the budget is provided above. Once completed, upload budget here.

[IDOC Budget - Final 4.19.22.xlsx](#) (4/19/2022 3:11 PM)

Organizational and Fiscal Capacity

Question: Provide the accounting structure, job titles and qualifications of staff responsible for fiscal actions.

Accounting Structure:

Lisa Johnson – Executive Financial Officer = Experience in GAAP practices and all aspects of grants and grant accounting

Cindy McMackin – Financial Manager = Experience in GAAP practices and AGA grant accounting course

Cheri Campbell – Financial Specialist Sr = Experience in GAAP practices, Primary financial point of contact for grant accounting

Question: Please provide a short summary outlining your organizations capacity to complete this project.

Idaho Dept of Correction (IDOC) has four education staff who will provide direct training and/or oversee the program. Two staff are onsite and will be involved on a day-to-day basis and a current NCCER trainer, from another IDOC facility, will be assisting with the startup and support. The Education Program Manager for PWCC will also be checking in periodically for support. Training space has been identified and is owned by Corrections. IDOC has a Financial Specialist Sr who handles grant accounting and a dedicated Financial Specialist who is responsible for PWCC expenses. The two financial positions will work together to ensure financial requirements are met.

Question: Upon request, the lead organization may be asked to provide a statement from the entity's independent auditing firm regarding the entity's most recent fiscal audit to include a statement of any audit findings. Is an audit available?

Yes

No

Tracking and Reporting

Innovation Grant funds must be expended within a one-year time period. Quarterly tracking and reporting of individuals participating in the project will be required. Individual names, start and end dates, and outcome data must be collected and reported.

Question: Entity responsible for tracking and reporting.

Idaho Department of Correction

Question: Contact Person First Name

Ted

Question: Contact Person Last Name

Oparnico

Question: Job Title

Education Program Director

Question: Contact Phone

208-658-2079

Question: Email Address

toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov

Question: Street Address

1299 N. Orchard St Suite 110

Question: City

Boise

Question: State

ID

Question: Zip Code

83706

Terms and Conditions

[Terms and Conditions](#)

Question: I certify I have read the terms and conditions governing the Workforce Development Training Fund grant and agree to comply if awarded a training grant. Click on the link above to view a copy of the terms and conditions.

Yes

No