

# H RTP Fund Request for Applications Digital Navigators Rider

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## Background

In April 2025, [Dalberg Consulting U.S., LLC](#), on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), issued a Request for Applications (RFA) to fund High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs) aligned with regional workforce and equity priorities, with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Care First Community Investment (CFCI). For more information, please see the RFA issued in April: [2025 Request for Applications for LA County DEO's High Road Training Partnership Fund](#).

One earmarked area of investment included the launch of a Digital Navigators program. However, following the review of submitted proposals, no applicants proposing Digital Navigators programs met the full eligibility criteria of the H RTP Fund and the specific Digital Navigators program requirements. As a result, Dalberg Consulting U.S., LLC is reopening this RFA on behalf of DEO to specifically solicit proposals for a Digital Navigators focused H RTP, with up to \$1 million in available funding for one selected program.

## About HRTPs

High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs) bring together employers, education and training providers, labor, and community organizations to build industry-informed, worker-centered, skill-based training models that meet evolving market needs and promote job quality, equity, and sustainability. By focusing on Los Angeles (LA) County residents who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and populations that have historically faced barriers to training and employment, HRTPs in LA County catalyze employment opportunities for LA County communities in need of an equitable economic recovery to reduce economic hardships and improve long-term outcomes. More information can be found in the [RFA](#) and the [H RTP Fund website](#).

While this RFA is being reopened specifically to identify and award one grant to a Digital Navigators focused H RTP, applicants must still meet the baseline H RTP eligibility criteria outlined in the [original RFA](#). Please refer to the [FAQ document](#) uploaded on the H RTP Fund website for additional information on eligibility requirements.

As a reminder, to be eligible for funding, programs must:

- Submit a complete application with all supporting documentation by August 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM Pacific Time
- Include all four required H RTP partners: a convener, an employer, a training provider, and a labor/worker representative

- The employer and labor/worker representative must be separate entities
- The labor/worker representative partner should either be an organized unit or in the process of forming an organization, or two or more workers from the target industry who can speak to worker needs
- One organization must serve as lead applicant and fiscal agent
- Any non-profit organization can serve as the lead applicant/fiscal agent; however, for-profit entities may serve as the lead applicant/fiscal agent only if they are workforce development providers
- Ensure all partners are based or have a location in LA County and in good standing
- Include signed letters of commitment, support or other documents (e.g., memorandum of understanding, partnership charter, etc.) to demonstrate formal commitment from each required partner
- Propose a program that serves at least two historically underserved populations
- Propose a program that focuses on eligible industries. All industries are eligible except for non-sustainable industries such as oil and gas

Applications that do not meet these criteria and other requirements outlined in the [RFA](#) will not be considered for funding, even if they align with the Digital Navigators Program goals.

## About the Digital Navigators Program

Digital Navigators programs aim to close the digital divide and create equitable access to broadband, digital tools, and career pathways in technology. Digital Navigators programs must provide tailored instruction and on-the-job training to help residents from historically underserved communities build digital skills, access technology career pathways, and contribute directly to expanding digital equity across LA County.

To be eligible for funding, all Digital Navigators Program proposals must meet all H RTP Fund eligibility requirements **and** address the following three requirements:

1. **Equip talent with technology skills and industry-recognized credentials.** Train participants in in-demand digital skills and support them in earning recognized credentials. Some examples include:
  - CompTIA A+, Network+, or Security+, CYSA+, or Cisco certifications
  - GIS, IT support, broadband infrastructure, or cybersecurity coursework
  - Digital literacy training, including computing, online safety, and productivity tools

2. **Provide on-the-job training to individuals to serve as Digital Navigators, who support or serve communities with limited technological access** with accessing critical digital resources, using digital devices, developing digital skills, and completing digital projects. Examples include:
  - Delivering technology and digital literacy assistance to community members
  - Completing digital projects or externships for private companies, public agencies, or nonprofits, with a particular focus on communities with low broadband connectivity and technological access
3. **Provide pathways into High Road technology jobs** in the public, private, or social sectors. Establish clear transitions into jobs in technology roles that offer living wages, benefits, job stability, and advancement potential. Examples include:
  - Explicit employer commitments to interview and hire graduates in technology roles

## Why none of the Digital Navigators program applications submitted in the initial round of the H RTP Fund RFA were selected

Many applications in the initial RFA period focused on Digital Navigators programs. However, of those applicants that had proposed Digital Navigators programs, applications were not eligible for funding under the Digital Navigators earmark due to one or more of the following reasons:

- Failure to address **all three Digital Navigators criteria** (e.g., not offering on-the-job training experience that would serve communities with low technological access)
- **Incomplete or missing partnerships** (e.g., no distinct worker representative)
- **Missing or non-compliant documentation** (e.g., not having letters of commitment from all required H RTP partners)

## How to apply and resources available

- **Returning applicants** may revise and resubmit their existing applications to meet the Digital Navigators criteria through the application portal. Guidance on how to edit previously submitted proposals can be found in the [Application Portal FAQs](#) under question 5.
- **New applicants** must complete a full application through the application portal. Guidance on how to navigate the application portal can be found on the [H RTP Fund website](#)
- **All applicants** are encouraged to review:
  - [H RTP Fund RFA](#), supporting materials and eligibility guidance

- [Information sessions recordings](#)
- [FAQ from the April launch](#) and the upcoming FAQ in mid-August

## Next steps

The following timeline outlines key milestones and requirements for this RFA:

- The application portal opened on **August 4<sup>th</sup>**
- An updated FAQs document will be provided. Questions for the FAQ must be submitted to [hrtf@dalberg.com](mailto:hrtf@dalberg.com) by **August 11<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM Pacific Time**, and responses will be shared by **August 18<sup>th</sup>**
- Final submissions are due by **August 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM Pacific Time**
- **Finalists will be notified in October**