

Powering the Next Generation of American Workers

BlackRock
Future Builders™

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated June 8, 2026

This document will be updated on a weekly basis until July 1, 2026, based on applicant questions. If you have a question, please send it to FutureBuildersRFP@jff.org by July 1. We will respond directly via email and post responses here if they are broadly applicable. Please read the grant narrative carefully before submitting a question.

To access the full RFP opportunity page, application portal, and related resources, please visit the official BlackRock Future Builders RFP website: <https://info.jff.org/blackrock-future-builders-rfp>

1. Can my organization submit more than one proposal or participate in multiple collaborations?

An organization may participate in multiple proposals as a partner, but it may serve as the lead applicant on only one proposal.

2. Are matching funds or cost share required?

No. Matching funds and cost share are not required for this opportunity.

3. How will success be measured and what outcomes are expected?

Grantees will be required to submit biannual progress reports over the two-year grant period. Reporting will focus on a defined set of key performance indicators aligned to the proposed intervention, such as participant outcomes, system-level improvements, employer engagement, and other relevant measures of progress and impact. Applicants can also refer to Appendix B in the Future Builders RFP Guide for sample or suggested metrics.

4. Is there a target number of worker training grants versus capacity-building grants that will be awarded?

No. The BlackRock Foundation does not have a fixed quota for how many awards will support worker training interventions versus capacity-building interventions, though it will be looking for a relative balance across the portfolio. As described in the RFP, applicants may propose either worker training solutions or capacity-building solutions aligned to skilled trades workforce development.

5. What is the difference between a \$500,000 grant and a \$1 million grant?

There is no single standard example because award size will reflect the scope and scale of the proposed program or project. Applicants may request between \$500,000 and \$1 million for a two-year grant period, and proposed budgets should be clearly aligned to activities, deliverables, expected outcomes, and efficient, cost-effective use of funds. For worker training proposals, scale may include the number of participants served. For capacity-building proposals, scale may include the number and size of convenings, the cost of surveys, or partner pass-throughs for participation, as examples.

6. Can you clarify the maximum indirect rate allowed in the budget?

The maximum indirect rate allowed in the budget is 25%. The budget template on the RFP website and in the Submittable application has been updated to reflect this change as of Wednesday, June 3. Negotiated federal rates that exceed 25% will not be honored for the purposes of this grant.

7. Are financial statements that have not been audited by a third party eligible to be submitted in the required documents section of the applications? Not all organizations have audited statements.

Yes, BlackRock recognizes that not all organizations have audited financial statements. Other financial statements, such as those prepared by a CPA, can be submitted in this section. The Submittable application language has been updated to reflect this flexibility.