
	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
	DWS Operational Guidance Number: OG 11-2023
	Date: December 6, 2023
	Subject: Virtual Reality Grants Available to Workforce Development Boards
	From:  Chet Mottershead Assistant Secretary for Workforce

Purpose: To support Local Area Workforce Development Boards' Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) staff by providing grant funds to be used for virtual reality equipment to assist with career exploration and job training simulations.

Background: WIOA was enacted to strengthen the United States (U.S.) workforce development systems through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and educated programs in the U.S. and to promote individual and national economic growth. To that end, NCWorks Career Centers are designed to provide services to individuals in obtaining training and employment and to aid employers in obtaining a skilled workforce.

Action: Each Local Area Workforce Development Board (WDB) may receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase virtual reality equipment. All virtual reality training equipment and software that will be used in a NCWorks Career Center, where the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) provides the internet services must be compatible with the state's network. Written acknowledgement of DWS network compatibility must be obtained from the DWS Information Technology Director prior to purchase.

Please complete the questionnaire, by clicking on the link below to ensure the compatibility of the vendor the WDB would like to purchase from. <https://forms.office.com/g/xM0PUUcYPt>

Once acknowledgement of DWS network platform compatibility has been obtained, Local Area WDBs may request the grant by notifying the assigned DWS Planner, by email. Standard WIOA procurement processes must be followed for all purchases (CPS 02-2022).

All expenses must be incurred by June 30, 2024.

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration: June 30, 2024

Contact: DWS Planner and DWS Information Technology Director