

ADDENDUM II

Q&A

Request for Applications
For ENTREPRENEUR AI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Release Date: November 7, 2025

The following is a list of responses to questions submitted by prospective respondents to the ENTREPRENEUR AI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, RFA. A copy of the RFA is available at:

[Entrepreneur AI Technical Assistance Program, RFA | Empire State Development](#)

No.	Question	Answer
1	The RFA mentioned that we should be in good standing EAC with ESD. Do we have to submit any application? What are the requirements to become EAC?	<p>This program will operate through New York State’s network of Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers (EAC). To be eligible to receive this grant, the grantee must be a current EAC in good standing with the State of New York and ESD.</p> <p>Please follow the link below for information on how to become an EAC.</p> <p>Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers Empire State Development</p>
2	Are three years of most recent financial statement necessary to apply for this program?	Yes, three years of most recent financial statements are required.



No.	Question	Answer
3	<p>Can further explanation be provided regarding how the selected EAC will be reimbursed? If an EAC is selected - is there a process to negotiate an advance payment?</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. The payment disbursement will consist of advance payment and final payment. All payments will follow ESD terms and conditions which will be stated in the Grant Disbursement Agreement.</p>
4	<p>Is the 18-month program period calculated from the contract start date (January 1, 2026)? Are pre-award activities such as curriculum planning reimbursable?</p>	<p>The program is anticipated to start on January 1, 2026. All eligible expenses need to be incurred within the 18-month period.</p>
5	<p>What Learning Management System (LMS) is ESD currently using or intending to use for this program</p>	<p>The curriculum developed under this program will be incorporated into the existing EACresources.com website, which is designated as the EAC learning management system (LMS) for the purposes of this program. The Specialist EAC will be responsible for the integration of the AI curricula into this LMS.</p>
6	<p>Does ESD have projections or estimates for entrepreneur referral volume from the EAC network?</p>	<p>ESD cannot estimate the volume of entrepreneur referral from the EAC network.</p>
7	<p>Are there required accessibility standards (e.g., screen-reader compatibility, accommodation for varying digital literacy levels) that the curriculum content must comply with?</p>	<p>ESD maintains the explicit right to introduce or update additional accessibility requirements for the modules during the program period.</p>



No.	Question	Answer
8	Are there any rules or guidelines regarding branding or co-branding with a subcontractor/consultant?	Please follow the EXH-C consultant agreement guidelines which will be included in the contract. No specified rules or guidelines regarding branding or co-branding with a consultant.
9	Does virtual or in-person group training count toward the 150-entrepreneur requirement, or only one-on-one assistance? How should repeat interactions with the same entrepreneur be recorded?	Yes, both virtual and in person training count toward the requirement. The hours will be tracked and recorded by selected EAC.
10	Must proof of required insurance be submitted with the application, or only upon award and contract execution?	Required insurance needs to be submitted with the application.
11	SFS Prequalification Timing: If NYS SFS prequalification is in progress, can an application still be submitted while processing is underway?	The grantee needs to have their SFS prequalification status active to receive any payment for this grant program.

No.	Question	Answer
12	<p>Can you clarify what the EAC Learning Management System (LMS) is? Is this a platform we will be responsible for building out for the purpose of this program? Should the curriculum be client-focused, training/TA-focused, EAC center-efficiency focused, or a little bit of everything? And if there is a training focus for the curriculum, does the requested curriculum only cover AI integration into existing workshop models (like the 60-Hour Training Course), or does it also allow AI integration into other workshop models that we've created?</p>	<p>The curriculum developed under this program will be incorporated into the existing EACresources.com website, which is designated as the EAC learning management system (LMS) for the purposes of this program. The Specialist EAC will be responsible for the integration of the AI curricula into this LMS. This platform essentially becomes the primary delivery mechanism for online modules.</p> <p>The core curriculum modules must teach entrepreneurs how to directly leverage AI to improve their businesses (e.g., marketing and operations). This is key to achieving the goal of serving 150 entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The proposed AI curriculum and training modules are designed to be flexible and modular. This allows everyone to integrate AI concepts and tools into all existing service models.</p>