

# The Community Workforce Readiness Accelerator for Major Projects (RAMP) Initiative

## Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ)

### I. Fellowship Questions

*Q. What is the commitment?*

**A.** In order to receive the full benefits of the fellowship, the Participant is expected to fully engage in the learning experience and to avoid obligations that will interrupt the appointment.

*Q. Are part-time arrangements an option?*

**A.** No.

*Q. What is the stipend amount and what benefits will be provided?*

**A.** The stipend and benefits are commensurate with experience and location. A stipend is offered in recognition of foregone wages in order to avoid financial hardship or strain. Fellows will be administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Benefits include health insurance, a travel allowance, and professional development opportunities. This position **is not** a government position.

*Q. Will relocation costs be reimbursed?*

**A.** While not preferred, relocation cost reimbursement may be considered on a case-by-case basis. We are asking fellows to describe their relationships and experiences that would be helpful to advance RAMP objectives in their Target Geography.

*Q. How much experience should a candidate possess?*

**A.** Applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and who possess the qualifications set forth in <https://zintellect.com/Opportunity/Details/DOE-STP-RAMP-2024> may be successful Fellows. We are seeking applicants who may have experience in one aspect of the position (i.e., organizing, coalition building, workforce development, or the energy sector) but not necessarily all aspects of the position.

*Q. Are you looking for high level candidates with a significant amount of experience?*

**A.** The Fellowship is intended to be a training or learning opportunity, so it is not intended to draw from people who are already top experts in community-based organizing for high-road clean energy workforce development.

*Q. Is being a veteran enough to meet the educational requirements for a RAMP Fellow?*

**A.** Being a veteran meets the educational requirement if you can show education through certifications and other documentation from your time in the military.

*Q. Can an applicant with significant organizing and coalition-building experience qualify for this Fellowship if they do not meet the minimum educational requirement of holding an Associate's degree (AA) or higher?*

**A.** No, the minimum education requirement for non-veterans is that applicants must hold an AA degree or higher or be enrolled in higher education.

*Q. Where will I need to travel during the fellowship?*

**A.** Primary travel will be in and around the Target Geography to which DOE assigns the fellow. The Target Geography will be defined by DOE when it determines fellow and Host Organization pairings. Some additional overnight travel averaging about once per quarter will be necessary to attend in-person meetings of the Fellowship Community of Practice and potential national convenings.

## **II. Host Organizations Questions**

*Q. What is the role of the Host Organization in the RAMP Initiative?*

**A.** Host organizations are intended to be trusted community partners that can host convenings for the workforce coalition that Fellows will be building out in a Target Geography. Expectations of host organization responsibilities are primarily two-fold: (i) drawing on their relationships with community, labor, education, and energy employer partners to support the RAMP fellow's workforce development and coalition building work, and (ii) providing office workspace and accessible meeting room space (or having the ability to secure meeting space), as needed, throughout the two-year fellowship in the assigned Target Geography. Host Organizations will not be responsible for managing the fellow's stipend, benefits, travel allowance, or professional development activities. DOE will provide fellows' stipends, benefits, travel allowances, and technology.

*Q. Will host organizations have a say in the fellow selection?*

**A.** No, decisions on fellow selections are reserved for DOE's discretion.

*Q. While the description states fellowship applicants can come from a variety of backgrounds, will preference be given to applicants with a background, degree or experience in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM)?*

**A.** The RAMP fellowship is managed by Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), which is a DOE laboratory asset used to drive workforce development in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, occupations. The RAMP Fellowship is unique

in its focus on the workforce development aspect of the energy sector as an area of study. While helpful, RAMP fellows do not need to represent a specific STEM discipline.

*Q. Do host organizations also have to be focused on STEM disciplines?*

**A.** No, host organizations do not need to have experience in or a focus on STEM. We seek host organizations that are rooted in their communities and have ties to labor, community, and other workforce stakeholders.

*Q. May labor unions apply to be hosts?*

**A.** Yes, labor unions may apply to be Host Organizations if they satisfy the eligibility criteria for Host Organizations set forth in the Request for Information (RFI) dated June 27, 2024, and submit to DOE a certification in form and substance at Attachment A to the RFI. They are subject to a conflicts of interest review to which all Host Organizations are subject.

*Q. Are community colleges or other education institutions eligible host organizations?*

**A.** Yes, if the community college or other education institution satisfies the eligibility criteria for host organizations as set forth in the Request for Information (RFI) dated June 27, 2024, and submits to DOE a certification in form and substance at Attachment A to the RFI. They are subject to a conflicts of interest review to which all Host Organizations are subject.

*Q. Are state energy offices, workforce agencies or other public institutions eligible to apply as a Host Organization?*

**A.** Yes, if the state energy office, workforce agency, or other public institution satisfies the eligibility criteria for host organizations as set forth in the Request for Information (RFI) dated June 27, 2024, and submits to DOE a certification in form and substance at Attachment A to the RFI. They are subject to a conflicts of interest review to which all Host Organizations are subject.

*Q. May we submit our indications of interest in hosting at multiple locations?*

**A.** Yes, entities may submit their indications of interest in hosting fellows in multiple locations.

*Q. Do we need to have 501(c)(3) status to host (or be fiscally sponsored) to host?*

**A.** No, the host entity does not need a particular tax status in order to carry out the role of host organization.

*Q. Is there funding for Host Organizations?*

**A.** DOE provides no U.S. government funding to Host Organizations for carrying out the expected role of a host under RAMP. Interested host entities will be expected to carry out the host role by using its own or third-party resources, which may include Philanthropy resources. With the consent of selected Host Organizations, DOE expects to identify the

selected Host Organizations to a list of eligible philanthropies interested in engaging under RAMP. Selected Host Organizations and eligible Philanthropy who provide certifications in form and substance at Attachments A and B to the RFI, respectively, may work out their own mutually acceptable partnership arrangement under RAMP independently, without DOE involvement. Any arrangement entered into between a selected Host Organization, community partner, and/or eligible Philanthropy to collaborate together in connection with RAMP must include a provision acknowledging that DOE is not responsible for paying any costs under that arrangement and that each party agrees that it will have no recourse whatsoever to DOE for any cost it incurs, as applicable, for Hosting Services, Philanthropic Services, as such terms are defined in the RFI, or other services.

### **III. RAMP Initiative Questions**

*Q. Will the community-labor collaboratives be able to influence DOE negotiations on the community benefits plans on energy projects that DOE is funding?*

**A.** No, DOE is the only party that negotiates community benefit plans (CBPs) with applicants seeking Federal funding under DOE programs pursuant to the Administration's Invest in America Agenda, as implemented through a suite of laws, including the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and/or the CHIPS and Science Act. Furthermore, we anticipate that most of the DOE negotiations on CBPs will conclude before the RAMP initiative lifts off in communities. Once DOE awards are finalized, key information on CBP commitments may be made public. Collaboration under RAMP may support CBP implementation in partnership with project sponsors under DOE programs, focusing on workforce issues including labor and community engagement and connecting local and underrepresented workers to high-quality energy jobs in their communities.

*Q. Would CHIPS Act investments qualify for a clean energy fellow?*

**A.** The CHIPS and Science Act has some funding allocated for clean energy projects, mostly at the National Labs, and could contribute to the investments that determine Target Geographies. However, semi-conductor factories do not count as clean energy projects for the purposes of determining Target Geographies.