Abstract:

Rock Valley and Highland Community Colleges have developed an EOC proposal to provide adult GED and postsecondary services to veterans and adult participants in the counties of Winnebago, Boone, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Ogle and Carroll Counties located in northwestern Illinois. This proposal is focused at establishing an Educational Opportunity Center with staff located on the Rock Valley and Highland Community Colleges campuses.

This 5 year project will identify adults (1,000 per year) that need to improve their educational skills by obtaining a GED or completing a high school diploma and/or helping these individuals explore postsecondary educational opportunities.

The proposal includes the Competitive Preference Priority to address the needs of military-connected student subgroups. The EOC program will address Invitational Priority 1 and use data from state longitudinal data systems and other reliable third-party sources when providing information related to the project and its participants. The Colleges will support Invitational Priority 2 by coordinating the project services with local and regional school and community resources to provide cost-effective services to the EOC’s adult learners (including veterans).

The Colleges will work with local non-for-profit organizations to identify and provide services to these individuals throughout the funding period. The major goal of this project is to lower the barriers that are in place that deter these adult learners from completing an advance educational experience and to help them become better prepared for employment in higher paying jobs.

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