



June 14, 2007

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Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Attn: Karen A. Straha  
200 Constitution Avenue NW, Rm. S-5206  
Washington, DC 20210  
Attn: Karen Staha

The Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development submits this application for incentive grant funding on behalf of Governor Kulongoski and the Oregon Workforce and Education Policy Cabinet (WPC). The WPC is comprised of the departmental leaders of our education and workforce system and has been working together since 1991 to align and leverage the workforce and education systems.

Oregon is eligible for \$1,522,101 of incentive grant funds. These funds are critical to our current efforts to increase postsecondary access and success for all citizens. This past year the incentive resources were used to increase awareness, outreach, and communication with students and stakeholders and to develop components of career pathways in demand occupations. These pathways assist our most critical clients in planning for, and connecting to, education and job advancement. First, they assist dislocated workers in accessing training for a new job and preparing them for a long-term professional/technical certification. Second, these pathways assist high school students in connecting to postsecondary classes that support their personal education and career plans. Finally, pathways assist adult basic education learners in preparing for, and making the transition to, further education and career training. Overall, access to and success in pathways opportunities increases the performance of customers within the education and workforce systems.

The new incentive resources will build upon what Oregon began in the past two years to meet Governor Kulongoski's vision. The governor's vision is for all Oregon residents and businesses to have the skills and resources necessary to achieve economic prosperity. The plan presented to DOL continues to move Oregon toward that vision. The Career Pathways vision is for to increase the number of Oregonians with certificates, degrees, and credentials that are valued in the current and future economy, leading to family wage jobs and higher wages.

To accomplish the governor's vision and the Career Pathways vision, Oregon is transforming its education and workforce delivery systems to be more customer focused and responsive to dynamic changing student, worker and business demands. The plan has four major goals:

- To expand marketing and communications outreach of Career Pathways to youth and adults, students, parents, employers and other community stakeholders;
- To align education systems and policies and improve processes to optimize implementation and institutionalization of Career Pathways through a systems alignment, curriculum alignment and improvement process;
- To develop complete, replicable Career Pathways from high school through university in demand occupations and;
- To enhance and strengthen partnerships with employers, industry associations, and workforce and economic development leaders.

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Incentive funds will be used for expanding development and implementation of career pathways statewide by providing non-competitive funding to Oregon's 17 community colleges. In April 2007, each of the 17 community colleges and their education and workforce partners participated in an Oregon Pathways Academy II and developed Pathways Action Plans for their region for 2007-09. These funds will invest in the implementation of these plans statewide and leverage WIA, Title II, Perkins, and community college general fund resources. Technical assistance will also be provided to Oregon's workforce regions to continue to strengthen the collaborative strategies, peer learning, and sharing best practices across the state.

We have provided the project description and timelines with our attached application. All projects will relate to the services authorized under WIA: WIA Title I, WIA Title II and WIA Title III.

The attached application includes four parts:

- Assurances and Grant Information;
- Project Description and Timelines;
- Application for Federal Assistance Standard Form 424; and
- Budget Information Standard Form 424A.

We look forward to the incentive funding as a vehicle to continue to advance Oregon to our Governor's vision of all Oregonians to have skills to succeed and prosper in today's and the future economy.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cam Preus-Braly  
Commissioner

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cc: Governor Kulongoski  
Workforce and Education Policy Cabinet  
Richard Trigg, Regional DOL Administrator, Region 6  
Jon Lampman, DOL Liaison, Region 6