

2003 One-Stop Collaboration Awards

The Boston Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration is pleased to announce 2003 One-Stop Collaboration Awards process. Cash grants of \$2,500* each will be awarded to two One-Stop Career Centers that demonstrate exemplary collaborative efforts in partnering with either businesses or community or faith-based organizations to provide workforce investment services.



Award Objectives:

The 2003 One-Stop Collaboration Awards are designed to:

- Promote leadership and partnership among One-Stop Career Centers, business customers and community-based or faith-based organizations; and
- Publicize innovative and exemplary collaborative practices that can be replicated by other One-Stop Career Centers.

The 2003 One-Stop Collaboration Awards focus is twofold:

- 1- One-Stop Career Center leadership to align services to meet employer needs; and
- 2- One-Stop Career Center partnership with community or faith-based organizations to provide extensive services to customers, particularly those unemployed or underemployed, to join the workforce and become self-sufficient.



Promising Models:

Promising models include those that are innovative and unique. Applicant should describe how the initiative/strategy being implemented is a new concept, and how the applicant is unique in its ability to provide the services proposed.



Award Categories:

Category I. One-Stop/Business Collaboration

The purpose of this award category is to recognize innovative and unique strategies implemented by the One-Stop Career Center to translate business and industry needs to the workforce system as well as strategies that respond to business and industry needs for a skilled workforce.

Applicants must demonstrate how working collaboratively they were able to develop and implement strategies for building the capacity of the public workforce system to be demand driven and to more effectively engage business as both customer and partner in workforce development.

Partnership/collaboration is evidenced by the One-Stop Career Center and Business partner jointly submitting the application for award.



Innovative and unique initiatives may be demonstrated by meeting one or more of the following strategies:

- **Building relationships with Business** – may include business forums, trade shows, roundtable meetings, etc.
- **Leadership and Partnership** – may include identifying business needs and/or industry cluster needs and determining how to meet those needs.
- **Capacity building** – may include staff development and training activities designed to improve delivery of services to business customers.
- **Effective services** – may include innovative approaches to help business and industry in meeting their workforce recruitment and development needs, such as incumbent worker training strategies, high growth industry needs, reducing skills gap, retention strategies, post-placement services, etc.
- **Outreach and communication** – may include marketing strategies that build business awareness of the public workforce investment system as well as active efforts to understand business needs such as business focus groups, surveys, etc.

The applicant must demonstrate innovative approaches to helping businesses and industry better access the services of the local workforce system and increase the capacity of the workforce system to provide solutions to the workforce challenges faced by businesses.

Category II. One-Stop/Community Collaboration

The purpose of this award category is to recognize innovative and unique strategies implemented by the One-Stop Career Center in collaboration with community-based organizations to meet community needs by providing workforce investment services to special populations. Examples of such groups include, but are not limited to, low-skill and low-wage workers, dislocated workers, individuals who are or were welfare recipients, at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, older workers, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, etc.

Applicants must demonstrate how working collaboratively they were able to develop and implement strategies to expand access of community-based or faith-based organization's client/customers to the training, job and career services available through the public workforce development system. Strategies may include leveraging resources of both community-based and/or faith-based organizations and the One-Stop Career Center system. Community resources may include mentoring, soft skills training, transportation, childcare, or use of space and volunteer hours.

Partnership/collaboration is evidenced by the One-Stop Career Center and the Community partner jointly submitting the application for award. Increased collaboration is also evidenced by actively engaging community partners in the One-Stop delivery system.

Innovative and unique initiatives may be demonstrated by meeting one or more of the following strategies:

- **Leadership and Partnership** – may include identifying community needs, determining how to meet those needs, building relationships with and among partners, and offering services that complement those of partners.
- **Capacity building** – may include staff development and training activities designed to improve delivery of services to special populations as well as referring individuals to community organizations for services.
- **Effective services** – may include innovative approaches to help communities meet their workforce needs such as providing exemplary program of workforce transition or services for a special population group.
- **Outreach and communication** – may include marketing strategies that build community awareness of the public workforce investment system as well as active efforts to understand community needs.
- **Leveraging resources** – may include strategies to increase the number of community-based organizations serving as committed and active partners in the One-Stop delivery system as well as leverage financial and non-monetary resources.

The applicant must demonstrate innovative approaches to helping communities better access the services of the local workforce system and increase the capacity of the workforce system to provide solutions to the workforce challenges faced by customers in the community.



Eligibility:

Applications are invited from One-Stop Career Centers, state and local Workforce Investment Boards, state administrative entities and local partners located in New England.



Application:

Each application must include:

- ✓ A complete application form cover sheet with applicant, one-stop and business or community contact information.
- ✓ A complete application form that addresses each award criteria.

(Use of the electronic version of the One-Stop Collaboration Award application form is preferred.)



Deadline:

Applications must be received in the Boston Regional Office by 4pm on May 2, 2003.



**Format:**

All information must be presented on the One-Stop Collaboration Award application form and should not exceed four pages. The application form is an electronic form that may be filled out electronically using MS Word by inserting text in the gray areas.

**Preferred Submittal Method:**

The preferred submittal method is via email to Claire Bailey @ bailey.claire@dol.gov or via fax @ (617)788-0101.

Hard copies may be sent to Claire Bailey, US Department of Labor/ETA, JFK Federal Building, Room E-350, Boston, MA 02203.

**Review Process:**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a panel composed of state One-Stop Conference planning committee members. Final selections will be formally announced during the lunch session at the ***Network '03: Connecting Business & Community to the One-Stops*** Conference in Newport, Rhode Island on May 15, 2003.

Award recipients are expected to deliver a short presentation of their initiative at the luncheon award ceremony. In addition, award recipients will be asked to submit their initiative as a Promising Practice. The Promising Practices Web site highlights innovative and continuous improvement practices in workforce development.

QUESTIONS about the Awards or the Application?

Contact: Claire Bailey at 617-788-0120 or via e-mail at bailey.claire@dol.gov.

To obtain additional copies of the application form please contact Claire Bailey or visit the Boston Region Web site at <http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg01bos/ent/>.

* Award funds may only be used for allowable WIA activities and in accordance with applicable OMB Circulars.