

Abstract

- (1) **Lead Applicant Name:** Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor
- (2) **Lead Applicant City/State:** Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
- (3) **Primary Partnership Entities:**
 - a. WIA Consortium Partners: Mayaguez-Las Marias, and Northwest Local Area WIA Consortiums
 - b. Academia Partners: University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez; University of Puerto Rico Aguadilla; Interamerican University Aguadilla
 - c. Employer Partners: Lockheed Martin, Hewlett Packard, Rock Solid, Axon Puerto Rico, Infotech Aerospace, Honeywell Puerto Rico, TrueNorth, InfoSys, E3Consulting, IT Auditors.
- (4) **Areas Served by the Grant:** Western Region of Puerto Rico, which is comprised of the following 17 municipalities: Aguada, Aguadilla, Anasco, Moca, Rincón, Cabo Rojo, Lajas, Hormigueros, Maricao, Las Marías, Mayaguez, San German, Sabana Grande, Isabela, Guánica, Quebradillas and San Sebastián.
- (5) **Total Funding Level Requested:** \$7,026,880.00
- (6) **Project Name:** REWOW – Ready to Work Western Region Partnership
- (7) **Summary of Program Activities and List of Credentials to be Awarded:**

The proposed program will train mainly long-term unemployed workers (at least 85% of project participants) in occupations and industries for which employers use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers. Program participants will receive individualized counselling, training and supportive and specialized services leading to rapid employment.

Activities include:

1. Determination of skills, credentials, and certifications identified by Employer Partners that are necessary for candidates to be eligible to fill vacancies or open positions.
2. Determination of vacancies and job openings at Employer Partners.
3. Determination of offerings at Academia Partners to fulfil employer needs and demands.
4. Establish what work-based training Employer Partners will provide (mentorship, OJT, etc.)
5. WIA Consortium-led outreach to recruit and identify participants.
6. Process eligibility documentation to enroll eligible participants.
7. Conduct individualized assessments through interviews and surveys to identify participant needs for training and supportive services.

8. Provide WIA individualized supportive services to participants that will lead to rapid employment.
9. Placement of participants in training program needed for their employability in H-1B positions (intensive coaching and other short term services culminating in direct job placement into middle and high-skilled jobs; short-term training leading to employment; accelerated skills training along a career pathway that leads to an industry recognized credential and employment). Training may include classroom sessions as well as work-based training with Employer Partners.
10. WIA job placement services with participants and employers upon participant certification completion.
11. Project oversight activities by PRTEC will ensure partners perform their responsibilities, serve as a liaison, administrate funding, and ensure reporting compliance and timely completion of project activities.

The credentials expected to be awarded include the following certifications: Microsoft, MS Share Point Administrator, Microsoft Foundation Classes, Cisco (CCNA), CISA/ISACA, Citrix, VMWare, Oracle, Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL), A+, Information Systems Security Engineering (ISSE/CISSIP), NI LabVIEW, and Project Management Professional. Other credentials may be identified during the grant period as new technologies and methodologies emerge.

- (8) **Populations to be served:** The targeted population to be served throughout the project are long-term unemployed workers (85% of participants). The majority of participants are expected to be over 30 years of age with some education in the fields targeted by the H-1B industries and occupations. The remaining population served (15%) will be unemployed and incumbent workers.
- (9) **Targeted H-1B Industry(s)/Occupations:** Information Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Industries – Primary occupations of Computer Systems Analysts, Computer and Information Systems Managers, Software Developers, Electronic Engineers Except Computer, and Management Analysts.
- (10) **Required Employer Partners:** Lockheed Martin, Hewlett Packard, Rock Solid, Axon Puerto Rico, Infotech Aerospace, Honeywell Puerto Rico, TrueNorth, InfoSys, E3Consulting.
- (11) **Additional Key Partners:** Interamerican University Aguadilla, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, University of Puerto Rico Aguadilla. Northwest WIA Consortium; Mayaguez Las Marias WIA Consortium.
- (12) **Public Contact Information:** Nelson Perea, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor, 787-834-5700; njperea@yahoo.com.