Worksystems, Inc. - Reboot Northwest
Attachment A: Project Abstract

1. **Lead Applicant Name**: Worksystems, Inc.

2. **Lead Applicant City/State**: Portland, Oregon


5. **Total Funding Level Requested**: $8,455,004

6. **Project Name**: Reboot Northwest

7. **Summary of Program Activities and List of Credentials to be Awarded**:

   Reboot Northwest is the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region’s dynamic collaboration that will reboot the careers of 1,000 long-term unemployed (LTUE) job seekers and veterans. Rooted in tested strategies that will deliver results, the partnership is supported by a strong, regional, bi-state coalition in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington of three Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), 39 employers, 4 industry associations representing 458 local businesses, and 15 training providers. Along with support from local CBOs, public agencies, and economic development organizations, Reboot Northwest will infuse our local high-growth Manufacturing and Tech industries with locally-trained workers while addressing the key workforce issue that has hampered our states’ and nation’s economy: long-term unemployment.

   Reboot Northwest will adapt an innovative and tested career development model created in our region to take current efforts to scale and meet the needs of local employers. Through purposeful and community-based outreach, we will identify 850 long-term unemployed residents and 150 career-seeking veterans in the bi-state Portland Metro area who have an interest or experience in our fast-growing IT and Manufacturing sectors. Each participant will then be matched with an America’s Job Center-based Career Coach, who will serve as a single point of contact for participant support, career planning and resource navigation throughout grant enrollment. Guided by Coaches, participants will undergo a holistic, multi-week assessment process that will result in structured Career and Resource Plans. This assessment process includes strategies that have proved highly successful at engaging barriered job seekers in the pursuit of target-industry employment, including Career Link - a cohort-based, three-week industry boot camp. Reboot preparatory strategies align with best practices for engaging long-term unemployed job-seekers by providing immediate, robust engagement in services through a strengths-based approach.

   After developing and finalizing Career and Resource Plans that include customized training pathways, participants will engage in occupational skill trainings that bridge the skill gaps that have prevented them from finding employment in the H-1B industries. Post-secondary training and industry partners have worked with the Collaborative to develop a menu of accelerated training pathways that will fast-track participants through certification and credentialing programs giving them the in-demand skills needed by industry.
With fresh, relevant credentials in hand, partnering employers will help to train Reboot participants through paid work experiences and on-the-job training, resulting in skilled talent ready for unsubsidized employment. Employers will also be heavily engaged in highlighting career opportunities to participants via Career Link, Reboot NetWork events and other forums.

Reboot Northwest will help our target participants reboot their approach, retool with updated credentials, refine their skills through work-based learning, and become reemployed with partner companies.

List of Credentials to be Awarded: MS Degrees, BS Degrees, AAS Degrees, Short-term College Certificates, Industry Recognized Certificates, Professional Licenses

8. Populations to be Served: Long-term unemployed (85%) and Veterans (15%).


12. Public Contact Information: John Gardner, Director of Business Services, Worksystems, Inc. (503) 478-7354, jgardner@worksystems.org