

**Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration**



Upcoming ETA Funding Competitive Opportunities

National Guard Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe Demonstration: \$12 million Anticipated Solicitation Announcement: Fall 2014

The purpose of this program is to improve the long-term labor market prospects of court-involved youth, and have successfully completed the 22-week Residential Phase of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. The Job ChalleNGe Demonstration will build on the Youth ChalleNGe Program's eight core components – academic excellence, life coping skills, job skills, health and hygiene, responsible citizenship, community service, leadership/followership, and physical fitness – by emphasizing programming focused on improving program participants' employment outcomes. The Job ChalleNGe Demonstration is intended to enhance their employment outcomes by providing participants with robust 5 month vocational experience that will place them on a pathway towards credential attainment and/or employment.

Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) Demonstration: \$5 Million Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement – Fall/Winter 2014

The purpose of this program is to develop and operate satellite American Job Centers (AJCs) inside of correctional facilities to address the employment barriers of incarcerated offenders as they transition into the community and the workforce. LEAP centers will bridge the transition period and directly link participants to their local American Job Centers (AJCs) for a continuum of services upon release. LEAP centers provide an integrated approach that will allow resources and services to be leveraged by both the public workforce and correctional systems to help reduce recidivism and improve employability. LEAP centers will build upon evidence-based practices and proven strategies of other facility-based one-stop center designs in the nation. This integrated service delivery approach has helped to ease the reentry transition, increase participant employment prospects, and reduce recidivism with transitioning offenders. LEAP centers will provide pre-release employment and career services and link directly to the comprehensive workforce development services post-release offered by their AJC partners, including follow-up services leading to gainful employment. Other program partners may include non-profit supportive service providers, such as philanthropic, community-based, faith-based organizations, and other local government agencies that provide relevant services and resources.

Training to Work 3 – Adult Reentry grants: \$27 million
Anticipated Funding Announcement: Spring 2015

This grant program is designed to strengthen the communities where the majority of ex-offenders return. These grants will provide training and employment for inmates age 18 and older participating in state and/or local work-release programs. The program focuses on training opportunities that lead to industry recognized credentials and job opportunities along career pathways. Adult programs help to develop strategies for career advancement and encourage life-long learning. Programs partners are expected to provide supportive services such as housing, substance abuse programs and mental health treatment. Grantees will be required to coordinate a leadership team consisting of WRPs, employers, and the workforce system, which includes Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and American Job Centers (AJCs) in local communities across the country.

Face Forward 3 Intermediary and Community grants-Serving Juvenile Offenders: \$30,500,000
Anticipated Solicitation Announcement: Spring 2015

Face Forward youth grants focus on giving youth a second chance of succeeding in the workplace by evading the stigmatism of having a juvenile record using diversion and/or expungement strategies. These pilot projects address the juvenile record issue, while developing the skills and opportunity for court-involved youth to move forward successfully in the workforce. These grants will offer training in demand industries that lead to industry-recognized credentials, supportive services through partnerships, the opportunity to give back to the community, and employment opportunities.

American Apprenticeship: Fall 2014

The Department of Labor is making \$100 million in existing H-1B funds available for **American Apprenticeship Grants** to reward partnerships that help more workers participate in apprenticeships. This competition will help more Americans access this proven path to employment and the middle class: 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs and the average starting wage for apprenticeship graduates is over \$50,000.

The new American Apprenticeship Grants competition – which will be launched in the fall – will focus on partnerships between employers, labor organizations, training providers, community colleges, local and state governments, the workforce system, non-profits and faith-based organizations that:

- Launch apprenticeship models in new, high-growth fields: Many fast-growing occupations and industries with open positions, such as in information technology, high-tech services, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing, have an opportunity to adopt and adapt apprenticeship programs, to meet their skilled workforce needs.
- Align apprenticeships to pathways for further learning and career advancement: Apprenticeships that embed industry-recognized skills certifications or reward workplace learning with college credit provide an affordable educational pathway for those who need to earn while they learn, and apprenticeships linked to pre-apprenticeship programs can help more Americans access this training and get on an early pathway to a good career.

- Scale apprenticeship models that work: Across the country, there are pockets of excellence in apprenticeship, but all too often these successful models are unknown in other regions or to other employers. These grants will build from strength and invest in innovations and strategies to scale apprenticeships – including to market the value of apprenticeships, make them more attractive to women and other Americans who have been underrepresented, increase the return on investment for workers and, or build national and regional partnerships to expand apprenticeships.

YouthBuild: - \$73 Million

Anticipated Solicitation Announcement: Fall 2014

The YouthBuild program is a community development program that serves youth ages 16-24. The target population for YouthBuild is high school dropouts who may be youth aging out of foster care, youth with disabilities, adjudicated youth, or other at-risk populations. The YouthBuild program uses a dual model combining academic education and occupational skills training leading to the completion of a high school diploma or high school equivalent. Participants receive an opportunity to gain industry-recognized certifications in construction trades while gaining hands-on experience in the construction industry. This grant program provides funding, resources, and technical assistance to public or private non-profit organizations. To learn more about YouthBuild, visit www.doleta.gov/youth_services/YouthBuild.cfm.

National Farmworker Jobs Program: \$81.8 Million Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement – Late Winter/Early Spring 2015

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) is designed to increase economic opportunities for migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFW) and their dependents through employment services, training and related assistance. NFJP works to counter chronic unemployment and underemployment experienced by MSFWs who depend primarily on jobs in agricultural labor performed within the United States and Puerto Rico. This grant program provides customized career and technical education, English literacy instruction, pesticide training, permanent housing, school dropout and recovery activities through public agencies and private non-profit organizations. The NFJP is an integral part of the public workforce system and a partner in the nationwide network of American Job Centers (also commonly referred to as One-Stop Career Centers). To learn more about the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP), please visit <http://www.doleta.gov/MSFW/html/NFJP.cfm>.

Disability Employment Initiative: \$15 Million Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement – Spring 2015

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)'s goals are to: increase the employment outcomes of adults and youth with disabilities and maximize their economic self-sufficiency; and expand the capacity of the public workforce system to serve individuals with disabilities, especially in existing career pathway programs, including through partnerships, policies, and practices. The target populations are: adults with disabilities (ages 18 and older); youth with disabilities (14-24); and individuals with significant disabilities (14 and older). To-date, through four rounds of DEI funding, the Department has awarded over \$81 million to 26 projects. The Round V DEI projects are designed to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in existing, successful career pathways programs in the public workforce system, improving employment outcomes. The Department's career pathways system initiative promotes a framework for integrating the public workforce system, adult education, training, and college programs to meet the business workforce needs. These projects will build on the previous successes of both

the DEI and career pathways efforts - leveraging resources and implementing successful practices to improve employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities, including those receiving Social Security disability benefits.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grants
Anticipated Solicitation Announcement: Winter 2015

The Department of Labor will make up to \$12.5 million in awards under the fourth round of the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI). This grant program provides funding, resources, and technical assistance to states building or expanding upon longitudinal data systems. Funding allows states to create the ultimate longitudinal data system through establishing matches with individual-level information from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary and through the workforce system while protecting individual privacy. The WDQI complements the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems program administered by the Department of Education.