

**Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration**



Upcoming ETA Funding Competitive Opportunities

American Apprenticeship: \$100 million

Announcement: Closes at 4pm Eastern Time on April 30, 2015

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.

The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm .

**Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) Demonstration: \$5 Million
Announcement: Closes at 4pm Eastern Time on April 3, 2015**

The purpose of this program is to develop and operate specialized 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. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

**Face Forward 3 Intermediary and Community grants-Serving Juvenile Offenders: \$30 Million
Announcement: Closes at 4pm Eastern Time on April 23, 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.

Intermediary Grant eligible applicants will include any current or prior Face Forward grantees, any community or faith-based organization with 501(c) 3 non-profit status (including women's and minority organizations) or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under WIA Section 166. Organizations must have an affiliate network or offices in at least two states.

Community Grant eligible applicants will include any current or prior Community Grantees, any community or faith-based organization with 501 (c) 3non-profit status (including women's and minority organizations), unit of state or local government, or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under WIA Section 166. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

Training to Work 3 – Adult Reentry grants: \$27 million
Announcement: Closes at 4pm Eastern Time on May 1, 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. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grants: up to \$12.5 million
Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement: Spring 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. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

YouthBuild: \$73 Million
Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement: Early Spring 2015

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. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.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. The link to the webpage posting ETA solicitations is: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.