

The President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Overview

In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Budget, President Bush proposed Community-Based Job Training Grants to strengthen the role of community colleges in promoting the U.S. workforce's full potential. This competitive grant program builds on the High Growth Job Training Initiative, a national model for demand-driven workforce development implemented by strategic partnerships between the workforce investment system, employers, and community colleges. The primary purpose of the Community-Based Job Training Grants is to build the capacity of community colleges to train workers for the skills required to succeed in high growth, high demand industries.

Technology and innovation, globalization, and the aging of America's workforce are continuously changing the nature of work, as well as needs in the workplace. Businesses in high growth, high demand industries face increasing difficulties in finding workers with the right skills. As a result, community colleges are important providers for workers needing to develop, retool, refine, and broaden their skills. Because of their close connection to local labor markets, community colleges are well positioned to prepare workers for high demand occupations.

Funding Opportunity Description

To implement this initiative, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration will conduct two competitive Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGA) in the spring and fall 2005. To be eligible for funds, publicly-funded community and technical colleges will be required to demonstrate that they are engaged in a strategic partnership that includes business and industry, the workforce investment system and the continuum of K-12 education. Proposals must identify workforce challenges and implement workforce solutions for locally identified high growth, high demand occupations.

The funds must be used for both of the following activities:

- 1) Increasing the capacity of community colleges to provide training in a local high growth, high demand industry through activities such as the development of training curricula with local industry, hiring qualified faculty, arranging on-the-job experiences with industry, and using up-to-date equipment; and
- 2) Training new and experienced workers in identified high growth, high demand industries, with the aim of employing and/or increasing the retention and earnings of trained workers, while meeting the skill needs of businesses within targeted industries.

