High-tech skills training for occupations where workers are in demand may be available under a new Employment and Training Administration initiative. The technical training, which is provided by a limited number of grantees in communities throughout the United States, is for high-skill, high-wage occupations that require at least a college degree or comparable experience.

This training program is intended to address skills shortages in the American workforce. It was created as a component of the Federal program which allows employers to hire a limited number of temporary, highly skilled foreign workers. Utilizing revenues from the user fee collected under the H-1B Foreign Labor Certification Program, technical skills training programs are being developed for occupations such as computer engineering, Internet technology, web design, e-commerce, data communications and networking, computer support specialties, electronics, accounting, and health care.

In October 2000, the H-1B user fees were increased from $500 to $1,000, and the annual cap on H-1B visas was raised from 115,000 to 195,000, which will substantially increase funding for this grant program. These monies also will provide $69 million for National Science Foundation math and science education programs for low-income students. Additional grants have been awarded to train laid-off workers in computer and information technology skills, and to help employers meet identified skills shortages. Information on grantees is available at http://www.doleta.gov.
The following is a list of Department of Labor-supported activities and services that are part of America’s Workforce Network which may be of particular interest to workers, employers, and workforce development professionals. A fact sheet with specific information is available for each of the following areas:

- Accessing Services via Phone or Internet
- Adult Employment and Training Services
- America’s Labor Market Information System
- America’s Career Kit (Online Resources)
- America’s Workforce Network
- Applying for ETA Grants
- Assistance for Trade-Impacted Workers
- Basic Information for Employers
- Basic Information for Workers and Job-Seekers
- Disability Employment and Training Services
- Dislocated Worker Program (Services for Laid-Off Workers)
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High-Tech Skills Training
- Job Corps
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Employment and Training Services
- Native American Employment and Training Services
- Older Workers Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Partners
- Registered Apprenticeship
- School-to-Work
- Tax Credit Programs
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare-to-Work
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Movement