

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Informational Notice 05-05

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Staff
Integrated Service Area Managers

From: Luis M. Macias, Director, Workforce Development Division

Date: June 21, 2005

Subject: **Community-Based Job Training Grant Partnerships**

PURPOSE:

To inform Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) that:

- grants will be awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA) to community and technical colleges (CTCs) for projects combining CTC capacity building with training activities targeted at high-growth industries in the local economy; and
- CTCs must submit applications for the first solicitation for grant applications (SGA) by **July 6, 2005**.

BACKGROUND:

Community-Based Job Training Grants are an outgrowth of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, a national model for demand-driven workforce development that focuses on:

- high-growth, high-demand industries in targeted sectors; and
- the role of strategic partnerships.

For Federal Fiscal Year 2005, \$248 million was appropriated for Community-Based Job Training Grants. DOL-ETA will award \$125 million in grants for the current SGA. A second SGA is planned for late 2005. Only publicly funded CTCs are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate that projects will be developed and implemented through a strategic partnership that includes at least one entity from each of the following categories:

- Community college system
- Employers and industry-related organizations, such as associations and unions
- K-12 public education system
- Workforce investment system (may include state and local Boards, state workforce agencies, and one-stop centers and their partners)

DOL-ETA emphasizes strategic partnerships as a solutions-based approach that engages each partner in its area of strength:

- Community colleges and other training providers assist in developing competency models and training curricula and in training new and incumbent workers.
- Industry representatives and employers define workforce challenges and identify competencies and skills required for the workforce.
- K-12 ensures that investments at CTCs are part of a continuum of education and training leading to successful skill development.
- The workforce investment system provides access to human capital.

Community-Based Job Training Grants must contain six critical elements:

1. Focus on skill and competency needs of local high-growth, high-demand industries
2. Strategic partnerships
3. Training activities that:
 - occur within high-growth, high-demand industries; and
 - result in college credit or other industry-recognized credentials.
4. Leveraged resources, such as the integration of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding into the proposed project
5. Replication (Grantees will develop the outcomes into solutions-based models that can be shared.)
6. Clear, specific, and measurable outcomes, including training outcomes tracked by Common Measures

Grant funds must be used in a manner consistent with WIA §171(d), which allows the broad use of funds to test approaches to the provision of training services and to support the development and replication of effective training strategies.

Eligible participants may include:

- dislocated workers;
- incumbent workers (skills upgrade or retraining);
- new entrants to the workforce, including entry-level workers needing basic skills or specific occupational training;
- individuals with disabilities;
- veterans;
- older workers; and
- youth.

For the purpose of the Community-Based Job Training Grants, the Texas workforce system may:

- serve as a collaborative member of a strategic partnership; and
- provide access to human capital.

CTCs may:

- apply for the grant; and
- contact the Board directly or approach a Texas Workforce Center operator or a partner to collaborate.

A Board may request that Texas Workforce Centers and partners notify the Board if they are approached by a CTC to participate in a grant application partnership. Additionally, a Board may choose to meet with CTCs, either individually or in a group, and offer to partner with them.

DOL-ETA encourages the leveraging of WIA resources to enhance the potential for success of proposed local projects. For example, Boards may provide support services to co-enrolled customers while they receive training under a Community-Based Job Training Grant.

DOL-ETA requires that CTCs:

- apply for grant funds by **July 6, 2005**; and
- submit a letter of commitment from their partners with the application.

Additional information on the SGA is available in the May 3, 2005, issue of the *Federal Register* at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-8772.pdf>

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries to the assigned contract manager for your local workforce development area.