

PY 2011 WIA 503 Incentive Awards State Application Summaries

Because Perkins III performance is no longer being collected, it was determined that states that exceeded their WIA Title I and Title II (AEFLA) performance goals can receive PY011 awards. PY2012 funds are used to make these grant awards.

Arizona

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Award Amount: \$696,551

Proposed Activities

Each workforce investment area in Arizona will adapt its strategies to the use of their portion of the allocation to inspire local approaches that will be consistent with the 2012-2016 Integrated State Workforce Plan. Key initiatives include:

- 1) Increase Arizona Business Assistance Centers' resource and technology services
- 2) Open new business center(s)
- 3) Develop OJTs for Dislocated Workers in targeted Production Management and Healthcare related occupations
- 4) Improve customer welcome process
- 5) Enhance its College and Career Pathways

Arkansas

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Award Amount: \$674,924

Proposed Activities

The state of Arkansas will use the WIA Section 503 Incentive Funds to alleviate the affects of budget reductions that would have affected local area service delivery. In the past, rollover

funds have supported reductions, but those carry forward funds will be depleted in PY 2013. The activities proposed to be funded by the incentive grant are:

- 1) Arkansas Consumer Reporting System
- 2) Management Information Systems
- 3) Technical Assistance/Training
- 4) Travel
- 5) Indirect Costs

These activities will allow local funds to remain budgeted for service delivery to those jobseekers that need the services most.

Georgia

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Award Amount: \$717,658

Proposed Activities

Working together, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, will collaborate to implement different components of the Fast Track training initiative program by developing two different components:

- 1) a technical college program
- 2) an aligned career pathway and apprenticeship program within high schools

This program will go beyond current state activities by combining basic skills, soft skills, and technical skills that are targeted to specific sectors/industries.

Idaho

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Award Amount: \$667,885

Proposed Activities

The state's workforce agency, Idaho Department of Labor, will administer the WIA incentive funds for the following projects:

- 1) Statewide Microcertification System
- 2) Program to Increase Transition and Improve Technical and Academic Skills
- 3) Computer-based Testing for the Improvement of Student Transition
- 4) GED to Work: A Time-shortened GED Preparation Project Administered at Local American Job Centers
- 5) Business Process Analysis

The activities described are targeted to improving system performance in accordance with the major objectives set forth in the state's current WIA Strategic Plan, AEFLA State Plan and Perkins IV State Plan, as appropriate.

Kentucky

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Award Amount: \$688,486

Proposed Activities

The state of Kentucky will develop multi-media instructional tools and transition services for individual customers in adult education and the workforce system regarding postsecondary options and workforce preparation resources. Additionally, the incentive funds will be used to strengthen individual and employer customer service through a state-level unified business services customer relations management database among education, economic development and workforce development partners and user-friendly online labor exchange services.

Louisiana

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Award Amount: \$683,255

Proposed Activities

The state of Louisiana will use the funds to realign its workforce pipeline by focusing on working aged adults who do not possess a high school diploma or its equivalent. Incentive grant dollars will focus on Adult Education (AE) career pathways which are industry-driven and supported by regional data and projected industry growth trends; namely, commercial and industrial construction and healthcare occupations.

Minnesota

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Award Amount: \$683,360

Proposed Activities

The proposed 2013 WIA Incentive Grant will address Minnesota WIA Title I and II efforts by addressing three interrelated components that strengthen and build capacity for cross-agency education and employment innovations including scaling up career pathways throughout Minnesota and continuation and enhancement of workforce development partnerships and activities. These three components are:

- 1) Establishing scale and depth of the adult career pathway collective impact model through engagement with several initiatives underway.
- 2) Building depth and scope of career pathways, including the Minnesota FastTRAC, Adult Career Pathway initiative through local programming, agency practice and policy development and evaluation of program and participant outcomes.
- 3) Expanding capacity for career pathway case management and enhancing performance measures through upgrades in Minnesota's web-based client management application.

Each of the Incentive Plan components relate to improving performance levels on state indicators for WIA Title I and II.

Mississippi

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Award Amount: \$692,377

Proposed Activities

The state of Mississippi will focus on three main initiatives, to include:

- 1) Develop a focused and coordinated workforce system brand and marketing plan to inform and ensure easy business and employment customer access to system services and training.
- 2) Foster cooperation and best practices in service delivery among workforce development partners, with emphasis on region- or sector-based consortia.
- 3) Development of a College and Career Transition for Adult Basic Education.

New Hampshire

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Award Amount: \$665,342

Proposed Activities

New Hampshire will utilize the funds provided from the incentive grant to focus on:

- 1) accelerating the state's efforts to improve the transition of adults into postsecondary training and placement in high quality jobs
- 2) increase the capacity of the adult education system to align instruction to the common core state standards.

Additionally, this funding will allow the state to substantially increase the number, scope and focus of existing transition programs and to provide a significant increase in the professional development activities accessed by local program teaching staff in Adult Basic Education, ESOL and Adult High School programs. Lastly, funds will be used to supplement existing resources devoted to expanding the NH Works system capacity to recruit and serve eligible individuals

interested in accessing training targeted to employment opportunities in advanced manufacturing and/or health care.

New York

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Award Amount: \$768,000

Proposed Activities

New York State proposes the following two initiatives:

- 1) Enhancing the College and Career Readiness of Youth in Need:

New York State Department of Labor together with New York State Education Department proposes the development of a partnership with the not-for-profit organization Youth Power! to assist in reaching out to organizations and agencies across the state who serve youth in need by focusing on:

- a) Creation of webinars/presentations
- b) Development of a Career Zone Youth Ambassador Program
- c) Support for professional development for Local Workforce Investment Act Youth Program Providers, adult educators and community based organization staff who serve youth

- 2) Curriculum for TASC Preparation and Community College Readiness:

New York State will develop and release a competitive Request for Proposals seeking respondents with HSE preparation curriculum development expertise and community college pilot sites to implement the developed curriculum, in an effort to develop a curriculum that will align with the TASC as New York State transitions from the GED exam.

Ohio

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Award Amount: \$729,340

Proposed Activities

The state of Ohio will fund the implementation of workforce system alignment, the creation of industry-sector partnerships, and the implementation of aligned performance metrics. The implementation of these activities directly supports the state indicators of performance and will strengthen the state's ability to increase employment, increase transitions to further education and training, and improve technical and academic skills attainment.

Pennsylvania

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Award Amount: \$724,355

Proposed Activities

The commonwealth of Pennsylvania will use its WIA Incentive Grant funds in support of the following initiatives:

- 1) Efforts related to the First Lady of Pennsylvania's Opening Doors dropout prevention Initiative, specifically the Educator Dashboard, Early Warning System and intervention Catalog Project;
- 2) A supply/demand analysis to identify gaps in employer job orders and training capacity within the workforce system; and,
- 3) A career awareness strategy that promotes careers in high-demand industries, such as allied health and advanced manufacturing.

Rhode Island

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Award Amount: \$668,615

Proposed Activities

The State Workforce Investment Board, in conjunction with the state legislature and the Rhode Island Department of Education are proposing two initiatives:

- 1) Finance several strategies meant to improve the public workforce system's capacity to achieve better outcome measures. These strategies primarily consist of technology buys and staff training.
- 2) Develop a statewide technology plan for adult education and to purchase updated technology for use in adult education classrooms which may include, but not be limited to, desktop computers, monitors, keyboards, laptop computers, iPads or similar devices, Smartboard white screens or similar devices, LCD projectors, in addition to software for the computers and projectors; all compatible with Cloud computing.

Tennessee

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Award Amount: \$697,963

Proposed Activities

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development proposes to utilize its Program Year 2011 Section 503 incentive award to continue to build upon the department's success in implementing a consistent vision, mission, and guiding values for Tennessee's citizens and the vital business sector efforts to fully recover from the recession and enhance the workforce system. The following four initiatives will be supported using the incentive funds:

- 1) AEFLA Title II Capacity Building
- 2) Local Area Incentive Awards based on performance outcomes
- 3) Training, Tracking and Reporting System enhancements and expansion
- 4) WIA State Office Capacity Building through its Office of Program Integrity and Accountability.

West Virginia

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Award Amount: \$670,161

Proposed Activities

West Virginia will use the Workforce Investment Act Section 503 Incentive Grant to fund a pilot project encompassing a summer youth work experience program and a simulated workplace educational program. WorkForce West Virginia will also allocate incentive grant funds to each of the seven Local WorkForce Investment Boards to create and expand summer employment and work experience opportunities for eligible WIA youth ages 16 to 21. The funds will be allocated based on regular WIA funding formula allocations.