

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Employment & Training Administration
Solicitation for Grant Applications
[SGA/DFA PY 13-07]
Amendment One

H-1B Ready to Work Partnership Grants

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor

ACTION: Amendment to SGA/DFA PY 13-07

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration announced on February 19, 2014 the availability of funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) for H-1B Ready to Work Partnership grants to be awarded through a competitive process.

The document is hereby amended as follows:

Prospective Applicant Webinar

This amendment to the SGA revises the link to the Prospective Applicant webinar.

Old Text:

A pre-recorded webinar will be on-line at www.dol.gov/readytowork and accessible for viewing no later than March 21, 2014, and will be available for viewing any time after that date. While a review of this webinar is encouraged it is not mandatory that applicants view this recording.

New Text:

A pre-recorded webinar will be on-line at <http://www.doleta.gov/readytowork> and accessible for viewing no later than March 21, 2014, and will be available for viewing any time after that date. While a review of this webinar is encouraged it is not mandatory that applicants view this recording.

New SGA Section III.E.4 Grant Recipient Training

The following language is added to Section III.E. to include grant recipient training.

4. Grant Recipient Training

Grant recipients are required to participate in all ETA training activities related to grantee orientation, financial management and reporting, performance reporting, product dissemination, and other technical assistance training as appropriate during the grant period. These sessions may occur via conference calls, through virtual events such as webinars, and in-person meetings. The lead applicant should budget for at least two staff members to attend up to two in-person events in Washington, D.C. during the life of the grant.

Section IV.B.3.a Preparing the Project Narrative

Section IV.B.3.a was revised to relocate part of the first bullet under Section IV.B.3.a.ii, Employer Engagement to Section IV.B.3.a.i, Targeted Industries and Occupations, as the language refers to targeted industries and occupations. This revision does not change the criteria nor impact the scoring in Section V.A Criteria.

Old Text:

i. Targeted Industries and Occupations

- Identify and describe the high growth industry(ies) and/or occupations targeted by the proposed program;
- Cite evidence that demonstrates that the selected high-growth industry(ies) and/or occupation(s) is one for which employers currently seek H-1B visas (refer to Attachment A for H-1B Visa Information);
- Identify and describe the skills and competencies necessary for entry into or retention in the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s) and identify and describe the education and training required to attain the skills, competencies, and degrees/credentials required for the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s); and
- Cite evidence that identifies the average, current wages offered for the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s), based on national, state, or local data.

ii. Employer Engagement

- Provide evidence that local and/or regional employers face a gap in skills of the available workforce and/or in the training available to the workforce. Describe the current and future projected demand for employment in the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s), including how the demand coincides with the proposed project. You must cite the source for the projected demand, such as DOL – Bureau of Labor Statistics or other DOL sources, state workforce agencies' sources, employers, or other written labor market information provided by employers, or other knowledgeable parties;

New Text:

i. Targeted Industries and Occupations

- Identify and describe the high growth industry(ies) and/or occupations targeted by the proposed program;
- Cite evidence that demonstrates that the selected high-growth industry(ies) and/or occupation(s) is one for which employers currently seek H-1B visas (refer to Attachment A for H-1B Visa Information);
- Identify and describe the skills and competencies necessary for entry into or retention in the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s) and identify and describe the education and training required to attain the skills, competencies, and degrees/credentials required for the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s);

- Cite evidence that identifies the average, current wages offered for the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s), based on national, state, or local data; and
- Describe the current and future projected demand for employment in the selected high-growth H-1B industry(ies) and/or occupation(s), including how the demand coincides with the proposed project. You must cite the source for the projected demand, such as DOL – Bureau of Labor Statistics or other DOL sources, state workforce agencies’ sources, employers, or other written labor market information provided by employers, or other knowledgeable parties.

ii. Employer Engagement

- Provide evidence that local and/or regional employers face a gap in skills of the available workforce and/or in the training available to the workforce.

Section IV.E.6 On-the-Job Training

Section IV.E.6., On-the-Job Training (OJT) was revised to clarify that public sector employers are not allowable recipients of OJT contracts under Ready to Work Partnership grants. The SGA states that successful applicants will generally follow the OJT definitions and requirements provided in the applicable Workforce Investment Act (WIA) laws and regulations. However, the SGA specifies a number of policy exceptions to the WIA definitions and requirements, one of which is that participant placements may only occur in private for-profit and non-profit sectors.

Old Text:

Under this Solicitation, OJT will follow the definitions and requirements under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) section 101(31). OJT is available for long-term unemployed or other unemployed individuals. Incumbent workers are not eligible for OJT under this SGA. OJT is provided under a contract with an employer in the public, private-nonprofit, or private sector.

New Text:

Under this Solicitation, OJT will follow the definitions and requirements under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) section 101(31). OJT is available for long-term unemployed or other unemployed individuals. Incumbent workers are not eligible for OJT under this SGA. OJT is provided under a contract with an employer in the private-nonprofit or private sector.

Section V.A.2.ii

In Section V.A.2.ii, Project Work Plan the “and” was removed as that is the only scoring bullet for that criterion.

Old Text:

ii. Project Work Plan (11 points)

- The extent to which the applicant presents a strong project work plan that includes feasible and realistic activities and timeframes; and

New Text:

ii. Project Work Plan (11 points)

- The extent to which the applicant presents a strong project work plan that includes feasible and realistic activities and timeframes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Kia Mason, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Grants Management, at (202) 693-2606 or mason.kia@dol.gov.

Signed May 20, 2014 in Washington, D.C. by:

Steven A. Rietzke
Grant Officer, Employment & Training Administration