

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 10-15

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: March 3, 2010

Subject: **Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative**

Purpose: To notify local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of a Federal Energy Regional Innovation Clusters initiative that encourages public workforce system partnership.

Background: On February 17, 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) issued Training and Employment Notice (TEN) No. 29-09, [Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative](#) (see link, below). The initiative represents a partnership between ETA, the Departments of Energy, Commerce and Education; the Small Business Administration; and the National Science Foundation to support the growth of an Energy Regional Innovation Cluster (E-RIC). The Cluster is intended as a geographic concentration of firms and industries doing business with one another and having common needs for workers, technology, and infrastructure. The Cluster is viewed as a model to create and retain good jobs, eliminate gaps between the supply and demand for workers in specialized fields, increase regional domestic product, promote scientific and technological innovation, and enhance U.S. competitiveness on the global stage.

In conjunction with implementation of the initiative, ETA and its partners released a joint Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The FOA invited

consortia of co-applicants to submit proposals for a single “pilot” project to develop a replicable and sustainable model for federal and regional coordination efforts. Nearly \$26 million dollars will be available the first year (with more than \$129 million available over five years).

Interested Consortia must submit completed applications no later than 5:00 p.m. (ET) on May 6, 2010.

While workforce development entities are not included as potential “co-applicant” members of a consortium and no additional workforce development resources are being offered as part of the funding opportunity, Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Centers and other workforce system entities are encouraged to formally participate as E-RIC partners in a consortium as the E-RIC initiative is expected to provide significant long-term and sustainable opportunities for creating good jobs in the energy efficient building sector. E-RIC partners are not required to be located within the E-RIC’s geographic region.

To encourage such partnerships, a consortium’s proposal will be evaluated, in part, on the extent to which it:

- addresses existing education/training capacity to develop a skilled workforce for the regional innovation cluster;
- involves key educational and workforce entities that include, among others, workforce investment boards, One-Stop Career Centers, registered apprentice programs, adult education centers, and community colleges;
- demonstrates alignment with existing secondary and postsecondary education and training programs;
- provides workers with skills and industry-related credentialing needed for employment;
- demonstrates an overall strategy to promote a diverse workforce and provide employment opportunities for low-income workers, aspiring and incumbent low-skilled, and other disadvantaged workers; and
- demonstrates commitment to effective outreach and recruitment of workers from underserved communities, communities with high levels of poverty, schools with high levels of free lunch eligible students, and census tracts with high levels of unemployment.

To access the full text of TEN 29-09, click on the following link:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/ten2009/ten29-09acc.pdf>

For detailed information regarding the E-RIC Funding Opportunity Announcement, click on the following link:

http://www.energy.gov/hubs/documents/ERIC_FOA.pdf

Required: Please assure that all appropriate individuals and organizations in your area are informed of the contents of this issuance.

Inquiries: Additional information is available on the E-RIC website:

<http://www.energy.gov/hubs/eric.htm>