

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 11-21

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: George Moriarty, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: March 23, 2011

Subject: **National Farmworker Jobs Program Grant Opportunities**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of two grant opportunities related to the National Farmworker Jobs Program.

Inquiries: On Friday, March 18, 2011, the U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training administration (USDOL/ETA) published notices for two competitive grant solicitations in the Federal Register.

The first grant solicitation is for state operation of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). The NFJP is a nationally-directed, locally-administered program of job training and employment assistance for migrants and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) and their dependents. Services include classroom and on-the-job training, as well as some supportive services such as nutrition, health care, child care, and temporary shelter. The services available for assisting MSFWs include WIA-defined core, intensive, training, and related assistance services. All of these services are critical to the MSFW population.

ETA is requesting grant applications from eligible applicants to operate NFJP for the two-year grant cycle beginning in Program Year (PY) 2011. NFJP is designed to serve economically disadvantaged persons who primarily depend on employment in agricultural labor performed within the United States, including Puerto Rico, and who experience chronic unemployment or underemployment.

Qualifying participants are typically those persons employed on a seasonal or part-time basis in the unskilled and semi-skilled manual labor occupations in crop and animal production. Through training and other workforce development services, the program is intended to assist eligible migrants and seasonal farmworkers and their families to prepare for jobs likely to provide stable, year-round employment, both within and outside agriculture.

Eligible applicants include State Agencies, State Workforce Investment Boards, Local Workforce Investment Boards, local government agencies, faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher learning and other entities capable of delivering services on a statewide basis. One operator will be selected per state.

Operation of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) is administered in accordance with section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), 29 U.S.C. 2912. WIA generally requires USDOL to conduct a general grants competition every two years to select NFJP grantees. This grant competition is being conducted prior to the passage of the USDOL's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation in anticipation of the appropriation of funds for Program Year (PY) 2011 NFJP grants. Funds will not be obligated for PY 2011 grants unless and until appropriated by Congress. The FY 2011 appropriation request for this program is \$78,410,000, to be allocated among state service delivery areas for operation of NFJP.

The application deadline is May 2, 2011.

The full text of the grant solicitation can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-05.pdf>

The second solicitation is for operation of the NFJB Housing Program.

Housing assistance is a supportive service offered to assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) to retain employment, or enter into or complete training.

Under 20 CFR §669.430, housing assistance under NFJP is one of a number of supportive services to improve economic outcomes for farmworkers by assisting them to retain employment or enter into and/or remain in training. The Guiding Principles for housing assistance under NFJP are:

- Housing assistance should leverage improved economic outcomes for farmworkers.
- Housing assistance services, and the strategies used to deliver them, should meet the needs of all farmworkers.
- Housing developed with WIA 167 (NFJP) funding should be actively marketed, and broadly accessible to NFJP-eligible farmworkers.

As with the NFJB grant, this grant competition is also being conducted prior to the passage of USDOL's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation in anticipation of the appropriation of funds for Program Year (PY) 2011 NFJP grants. Funds will not be obligated for PY 2011 grants unless and until appropriated by Congress. Therefore, the selection of grantees and award of funds under this competition is

contingent upon the enactment of a PY 2011 appropriation for the NFJP. Grants awarded through this solicitation will be for a two-year period, as prescribed in WIA section 167, but funded on an annual basis. The FY 2011 appropriation request for the housing assistance program is \$5,700,000.

The number and funding amount of grants awarded will vary depending on the number of applications received and found to be fundable. In the past, awards have ranged from approximately \$150,000 to approximately \$1,000,000.

Eligible applicants include State Agencies, State Workforce Investment Boards, Local Workforce Investment Boards, local government agencies, faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher learning and other non-profit organizations.

The application deadline is May 2, 2011.

The full text of the grant solicitation can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-08.pdf>

Inquires: Inquires related to the NFJB Grant should be directed to Jeannette Flowers, Grants Management Specialist at 202-693-3322.

Grants Management Specialist at Inquiries related to the Housing Grant should be directed to Eileen Banks, Grants Management Specialist at 202-693-3403