

# Mass Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 25.134**

☐ Policy ☒ Information

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

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** June 22, 2016

**Subject:** **America's Promise Job Driven Grant Program**

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**Purpose:** To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a funding opportunity, *America's Promise Job Driven Grant Program*, being offered through the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration to strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers in specific industry sectors. While EOLWD/DCS will not be developing an application for this program, DCS is requesting information from local areas that intend to apply for these funds.

**Background:** The purpose of America's Promise grant program is to strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers to expand an economic region's middle- to high-skilled workforce within one or more prioritized industry sector(s), thereby creating economic opportunities for America's workforce to gain the necessary skills to fill in-demand jobs and increasing the long-term competitiveness of an economic region. To help achieve this goal, the grant will provide individuals the opportunity to get high-quality, tuition free education and training that leads to in-demand and industry-recognized credentials and degrees. A fundamental goal of America's Promise is to accelerate the development of new and the expansion of existing 21st century regional workforce partnerships with business and industry leaders committed to providing a pipeline of skilled workers in a specific industry sector(s). These partnerships will bring together industry leaders with senior level leadership from workforce and economic development, secondary and post-secondary education, elected officials, and other important community stakeholders. To keep pace with the rapid shifts seen in today's economy, DOL/ETA encourage these partnerships to leverage data and technology to

increase communication between employers, workforce and training providers, and job seekers.

<b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b>	<a href="#"><u>FOA-ETA – 16-12</u></a>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	August 25, 2016
<b>Expected Number of Awards:</b>	20-40
<b>Total Program Funding:</b>	\$100,000,000
<b>Award Ceiling:</b>	\$6,000,000
<b>Award Floor:</b>	\$1,000,000
<b>Period of Performance:</b>	48 Months

The America's Promise grant program is authorized under Section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), as amended (29 U.S.C. 3224a). America's Promise grants are financed by a user fee paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the United States under the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program.

**Eligible applicants include:**

The lead applicant in the regional workforce partnership must represent one of the following types of entities –

- a) The workforce investment system;
- b) Education and training providers, including community and technical colleges and systems; and
- c) Business-related nonprofit organizations, an organization functioning as a workforce intermediary for the express purpose of serving the needs of an industry, or a regional or industry association.

**Applicants must design workforce development strategies that comprise the following types of activities:**

1. Tuition-free education and training in a high-quality program that enables individuals to advance along a career pathway that supports the growth of a regional workforce within a specific H-1B industry or occupation, including providing participant support services necessary to successfully move individuals into middle- to high-skilled employment; and assurance from community and technical colleges and other training providers to modify offerings to align with industry needs over time;
2. The development and expansion of regional workforce partnerships through: enhanced regional leadership; alignment of regional workforce development strategies, including those required under WIOA and economic development plans; and, alignment with existing federal resources in the region;
3. Employer engagement in sector strategies by ensuring active employer involvement in the regional workforce partnership, design of the program, training, and hiring of successful participants; as well as a plan to develop a more seamless, real time and possibly tech-enabled way to collect feedback from employers about the quality of participants from training programs; and
4. Strong commitment to customer-centered design and excellence in customer service, so that the program responds to the needs of industry,

employers, and participants, through human-centered design methodology and other methods of design thinking.

**Required partners:**

- Employer and industry representatives that align with the partnership's regional sector strategies;
- Workforce investment system representing the regional service area;
- Economic development agencies representing the regional service area; and
- Education and training providers representing the regional service area, including community and technical colleges or systems; joint labor-management training partnerships; and nonprofit and community-based organizations that offer job training.

These partnerships will be focused on four key priorities:

1. Increasing opportunities for all Americans
2. Expanding employer engagement
3. Using evidence-based design
4. Leveraging and aligning additional resources

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share the information regarding this funding opportunity with management, staff and partners as appropriate. Please respond if you intend to apply with an email to Lisa Caissie at [Lisa.J.Caissie@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:Lisa.J.Caissie@MassMail.State.MA.US). We ask that your email include:

- key partners in the region identified so far;
- the industry or career area;
- a basic description of what you are thinking of submitting;
- basic projection on the potential number of individuals to be served (if known)
- projected type and number of credentials to be awarded

If you need anything from DCS, such as a letter of support, please contact Lisa Caissie.