MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

MassWorkforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 06-52

□ 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** Associate Directors DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Susan V. Lawler, Director

Division of Career Services

August 11, 2006 Date:

Subject: Community-Based Job Training Grant Initiative, Revised

Purpose:

To revise MassWorkforce Issuance 06-43. USDOLETA has provided additional information, specifically relevant to the submission of an application for a Community-Based Job Training Grant made by a One-Stop Career Center (one of the eligible entities). This revision summarizes the application requirements for One-Stop Career Center applicants and provides a link to several sites that provide additional detail. \$125 million in competitive grants are to be awarded in 2006 to build the capacity of community colleges to train workers to develop skills required to succeed in high growth/high demand industries as part of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative.

Background: In FY 2006 \$125 million was appropriated for Community-Based Job Training Grants. This represents funding for a second round of competition for grant funds aimed at increasing the capacity of community colleges to provide training in a local high growth, high demand industry. In October, 2005, DOL awarded \$125 million to 70 community colleges in 40 states.

> It is anticipated that in 2006 ETA will award up to 75 grants, ranging from \$500,000 to \$2 million each.

Grant activities may include (but are not limited to) developing training curricula in association with local industry, hiring qualified instructors, providing OJT experiences within a targeted industry and utilizing up-to-date equipment. The initiative's goals include training new and experienced workers in high growth, high demand industries with the aim of employing and/or increasing the retention and earnings of trained workers, while meeting the skill needs of targeted businesses/industries.

Those entities that may apply include: One-Stop Career Centers, individual community and technical colleges, community college districts and state community college systems. Applicants must propose a combination of capacity building and training activities targeted to local high growth, high demand industries with regional economic significance. Capacity building strategies are expected to address significant barriers that impede the ability of the community college to meet the training needs of local industry. Training activities must lead to college credit or an appropriate credential.

If a One-Stop Career Center wishes to apply for a grant, the "One-Stop Operator" as defined in §121 of the Workforce Investment Act *must be the designated applicant*. The applicant must have a letter of concurrence from all signatories to the One-Stop Career Center Memorandum of Understanding, including the Local Workforce Investment Board and all mandatory partners (again , as specified in §121). The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activities are consistent with the state strategic plan and that the Local Workforce Investment Board (or the designated Fiscal Agent) will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant, if awarded.

Applicants must demonstrate a strategic partnership that includes business and industry, the workforce investment system and the continuum of education including the K-12 educational system, Adult Education and four-year colleges and universities.

Specifics on applying for these competitive grants may be found at: www.doleta.gov/business/Community-BasedjobtrainingGrants.cfm .

The Federal Register also provides additional clarification regarding direct training costs, tuition payments and the leveraging of Workforce Investment Act resources. The appropriate issue may be found at: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-12763.thm

Action

Required: Please assure that all appropriate workforce investment partners are informed of

the content of this issuance.

Effective: Immediately