



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.268

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: May 28, 2024

Subject: **Funding Opportunity – DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Round 2**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of the Department of Labor's Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program, funding opportunity, FOA-ETA-23-31 Round 2, announced on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Background: The purpose of the DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program is to fund public-private partnerships to develop, strengthen, and scale promising and evidence-based training models in H-1B industries and occupations. To meet the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), this program aims to train job seekers in advanced manufacturing; information technology; and professional, scientific, and technical services occupations that support renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors.

Goals of this program include:

- 1) strategies for ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, both through the inclusion of targeted partners that are primarily minority-serving

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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(such as institutions of higher ed, community-based partnerships, and employer partners), as well as by prioritizing recruitment, training, and retention of a local workforce that is representative of the local community demographics, in particular historically marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented populations in smaller and/or rural communities;

- 2) career pathways that lead to middle- to high-skilled employment; and
- 3) approaches for increasing job quality. These core principles will help ensure equitable access to in-demand, quality jobs that are responsive to local and regional employer needs.

Applicants should plan to engage workers during the initial grant proposal development phase to align the program design with worker needs.

Applicants will design training programs in infrastructure-related industry sectors for good jobs in high-demand occupations that offer above-average pay and benefits for the applicable industry and service area, and opportunities to advance along a career pathway to middle- to high-skilled quality jobs.

Awarded grant projects will promote career pathways programs that offer a clear sequence, or pathway, of education coursework and/or training credentials recognized by employers. They will require a training model that includes work-based learning as a training option and allows for a variety of other training models including, but not limited to, classroom training, incumbent worker training, and RAPs. Applicants will assess and offer participants the appropriate training model to fit their needs.

The Department highly encourages public-private partnerships under the Development Track to contribute at least 15 percent of the total amount of requested funds as leveraged funds to support the grant project.

This grant program must serve participants who are at least 17 years old and not currently enrolled in secondary school within a local educational agency.

Funding Opportunity Number:	<u>FOA-ETA-23-31 – Round 2</u>
Application Deadline:	July 01, 2024
Estimated Total Funding:	\$35,000,000
Award Range:	\$500,000 - \$5,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards:	15
Eligible Applicants:	National or Community-based Nonprofit

Organizations targeting advanced manufacturing, IT, and/or professional, scientific, and tech services related to renewable energy, transportation, and/or

broadband infrastructure sectors; Labor Unions, Labor-Management Organizations, and Worker Organizations; Education/Training Provider(s): Public or private nonprofit education and training providers; Workforce Development Entities involved in administering the public workforce system established under WIOA; Economic Development Agencies; Native American Tribal Governments (Federally recognized); and State/County/Local Governments, including cities and townships, and State Workforce Agencies (State government agencies that receives funds pursuant to the Wagner-Peyser Act).

Please see the FOA for complete details.

Special Note: Should your local area be interested in discussing an application lead by MassHire please contact Sacha Stadhard at sacha.stadhard@mass.gov by Monday, June 3, 2024.

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately