MassWorkforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 14-33   ☐ 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 Operations Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
                 Department of Career Services

Date: April 18, 2014

Subject: **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Funding Opportunity**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Directors and other local workforce investment partners of grant funds authorized for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program through Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) DFA-PY-13-10.

Background: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of approximately $450 million in grant funds for Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program. Approximately 50 grants ranging between $2,260,000 and $20,000,000 will be awarded.

Eligible Applicants - Single eligible institutions and consortia of eligible institutions working with various stakeholders, including the public workforce system, in the community.

With this final round of TAACCCT funding, the Department is focused on advancing innovative, sector-based system change in regional and statewide economies. The TAACCCT program provides capacity-building grants to spur innovation and the development of model training programs at America's community colleges and universities. TAACCCT-funded programs will prepare

participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations by using innovative and sophisticated strategies that address the unique needs of unemployed or under-employed adults. Throughout the first three rounds of TAACCCT, grantees have transformed the ways they design and deliver courses to adults through accelerated learning strategies, redesigned curricula, and technology-enhanced learning activities. These have included the incorporation of prior learning and knowledge, integrated occupational and academic learning, new educational technology, work-based learning opportunities, and online and distance learning opportunities. The overarching goals of the program are to:

(1) increase attainment of degrees, certifications, certificates, diplomas, and other industry-recognized credentials that match the skills needed by employers to better prepare workers eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Workers Program ("TAA-eligible workers") of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. 2271-2323, and other adults for high-wage, high-skill employment or re-employment in growth industry sectors;

(2) introduce or replicate innovative and effective methods for designing and delivering instruction that address specific industry needs and lead to improved learning, completion, and other outcomes for TAA-eligible workers and other adults; and

(3) demonstrate improved employment outcomes.

Applicants will coordinate their programs with at least three types of key stakeholders in each of the communities represented: (a) Governors; **(b) the public workforce system;** and (c) philanthropic organizations, business-related and other non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and/or labor organizations.

Grant applications under this solicitation must include the following core elements:

1.   Evidence-based design

2.   Career pathways

3.   Advanced online and technology-enabled learning

4.   Strategic alignment with the workforce system and other stakeholders

5.   Alignment with previously-funded TAACCCT projects

6.   Sector strategies and employer engagement

The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is July 7, 2014. Applications must be received no later than 4:00:00 p.m. Eastern Time.