

Information Concerning Department of Labor Solicitation

SGA/DFA PY-10-13/CFDA 17.268

Grant Applications for H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants

What PSM Directors Should Know

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Purpose of Grant Program: Employers use H-1B visas to hire non U.S. workers – usually in jobs that require high degrees of technical expertise/training. The fees for these visas are redeployed in several federal grant programs, including this Department of Labor solicitation. The purpose of the grant program is to provide training/education to augment the numbers of U.S. workers who are competitive for the jobs that H-1B visa holders are filling. In other words, the grant programs act to create a home-grown pool of talent from which employers could draw.

Is this a good opportunity for PSM programs?: A qualified yes. If your program and/or your institution has already been successful with Department of Labor funding, if you are already working closely with employers in your region who tend to hire a number of H-1B visa holders, as well as trade associations and workforce investment boards (WIBS), etc., and you have an aspect of PSM development or programming that fits the niches (e.g. health IT; serving long-term unemployed individuals) highlighted in the solicitation, you may have a competitive proposal.

Logistical Details: The Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor (hereafter DoL) has \$240M to award in two solicitations: one round with a closing date of June 2nd, 2011, the other open until November 17, 2011. It is unclear whether the amount of money will be divided equally between the June and November competitions; and we (CSU) will be monitoring this situation closely, and suggest that other institutions do so as well.

Grant Matching Required for Most Programs: It's important to note that grant matching is required for most programs funded under this solicitation. Applicants that are working with employed individuals (termed incumbent workers) must provide 50% match (mix of in-kind and cash – half of total matching funds must be cash). If your grant proposal won't be working with employed individuals, cost sharing/matching is NOT required.

Review all available resources: Attached to this one-page summary are: (1) the original solicitation, (2) a transcript of a webinar on the solicitation, and, (3) a powerpoint from the solicitation. In addition, you will want to look carefully at the list of employers in your state who use H-1B visas, as they will be primary partners on your proposal. Please see: <http://www.myvisajobs.com/Reports/H1B-Visa-2011.aspx?T=WS>.