Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT)

Based on: Department of Labor (DOL) Program Solicitation CFDA 17.282
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=253993

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Proposal Deadline: **July 7, 2014.**

FUNDING and AWARD INFORMATION

TAACCCT estimated total program funding of $450 million.

- Expected range of individual awards is between $2.26 and $2.5 million, totaling $150 million. Award Amount for Single Institution Applicants Seeking to Exceed the Funding Cap: Single institution applicants may apply to exceed the maximum funding level of $2.5 million by proposing a project that addresses regional capacity building activities. They may seek up to an additional $750,000, for a total grant award of $3,250,000.
- DOL will award 15-20 grants up to $30 million to single-state or multi-state consortium applicants. The Department will provide two tiers of funding for consortium grant awards, based on the number of institutions in the consortium.
  - ✓ Tier 1: These are small consortia comprised of three to 10 consortium members. The awards for consortia of this size will be capped at $10 million.
  - ✓ Tier 2: These are medium to large consortia comprised of 11 or more consortium members. The award for consortia of this size will be capped at $15 million.

- Consortium applicants may apply to exceed the maximum funding level for their tier by proposing to implement only one of the three types of regional or statewide capacity building activities: (1) Advance State Career Pathway Systems; (2) Improve Statewide Data Collection, Integration, and Use; or (3) Create Nationally Recognized Competencies and Credentials.

- The maximum amount of funding that a consortium applicant seeking to exceed the cap may apply for is based on the number of members in the consortium:
  - ✓ Tier 1: Consortia with three to 10 members that meet the conditions below may request an additional level of funding of up to $2 million. The maximum award for consortium of this size is $12 million.
  - ✓ Tier 2: Consortia with 11 or more consortium members that meet the conditions below may request an additional level of funding of up to $5 million. The maximum award for consortium of this size is $20 million.

- There is no cost sharing or matching requirement.

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- **Institutions of higher education (IHEs)** which offer programs that can be completed in not more than two years. They include public, proprietary, or other nonprofit educational institutions such as Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges, Historically

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Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions).

- **Educational institutions in the U.S. territories** if they offer programs that can be completed in not more than two years and are accredited by an agency or association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. However, applications from institutions not located in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico may not be eligible for the full 10 points in Section V.A.1 because workers outside of these jurisdictions cannot be certified as TAA-eligible.)

- **Eligible institutions previously funded** under TAACCCT Round 1 and Round 2 may apply as a single institution or as a Lead or Member Institution in a consortium. Eligible institutions previously funded as a single institution or a Lead Institution under a consortium Round 3 may not apply as a Lead Institution in a consortium, but may apply as a single institution or participate in a consortium application as a Member Institution.

Please note, for institutions funded under TAACCCT Round 1, 2, and 3, the Department does not intend to fund the continuation of their existing projects; however, TAACCCT Round 1, 2, and 3 Grantee Institutions can propose projects that expand or enhance previously-funded TAACCCT projects in a new way.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The TAACCCT program provides capacity-building grants to drive 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 teaching and learning strategies that reach large numbers of unemployed or under-employed adults. Further, the program will work to increase the number of workers who attain certificates, degrees, and other industry-recognized credentials, helping meet President Obama's college graduation goal of increasing the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential by 2020.

The overarching goals of the TAACCCT 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 TAA-eligible workers 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. The Department of Labor is implementing TAACCCT in partnership with the Department of Education.

With this final round of TAACCCT funding, the Department is focused on advancing innovative, sector-based system change in regional and statewide economies through grants to single eligible institutions and consortia of eligible institutions. These grant projects will create industry-driven strategies that are responsive to regional labor markets and state economies. Institutions within a consortium project will

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accomplish this by working across institutions within a local region or throughout a state while individual institutions will coordinate with other organizations within their local regional economy.

This round of funding also seeks to take successful approaches to scale and drive policy changes that will lead to changes within institutions, state community college systems, or across all community colleges in states where centralized systems do not exist to improve the delivery of needed training for TAA-eligible workers and other adults. To accomplish this, successful applicants will propose strategies that take to scale the adoption of policies, supported by evidence where it exists, that increase training retention, completion, and promote faster time to employment. Applicants are also encouraged to pursue strategies that lead to increased wages compared to prior employment of participants.

TAACCCT CORE ELEMENTS

To ensure that TAACCCT projects accomplish the goals stated above, applicants must propose projects that address ALL of the following core elements:

Core Element 1: Evidence-Based Design: Successful applicants will develop new strategies, or replicate or adapt existing evidence-based strategies, and will be committed to using data for continuous improvement of programs that provide workers with the education and skills to succeed in high-wage, high-skill occupations. An important goal of the program is to build knowledge about program models so that, in the future, institutions can replicate practices that are effective and identify and strengthen practices in need of improvement

Core Element 2: Career Pathways: Career pathway programs offer a clear sequence of education coursework and/or training credentials aligned with employer-validated work readiness standards and competencies and integrate academic and occupational skills training. Career Pathways are focused on one or more industry sectors. For TAA-eligible workers and other adults, these components, integrated within a comprehensive workforce and education strategy, can provide opportunities to earn a variety of post-secondary credentials that have labor market value. To meet the needs of adult workers to accelerate the time to degree completion and employment, individual components of career pathways developed through the TAACCCT program will include the following:
- Integrated education and career-focused training programs that offer accelerated and contextualized remediation;
- Comprehensive and personalized student support services and career guidance;
- Credit for prior learning and prior learning assessments;
- Competency-based assessments and training courses;
- Modularized curriculum;
- Stacked and latticed credentials; and
- Online and technology-based learning strategies

Core Element 3: Advanced Online and Technology-Enabled Learning: Successful applicants will incorporate online and/or technology-enabled learning strategies into their program design. Online and

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technology-enabled (including hybrid, or a blend of online and classroom instruction) learning strategies provide adults an opportunity to balance the competing demands of work and family with acquiring new knowledge and skills at a time, place, and/or pace that are convenient for them. Successful applicants will consider the use of technology to enable rolling and open enrollment processes, modularize content delivery, simulate assessments and training, and accelerate course delivery strategies.

Core Element 4: Strategic Alignment with the Workforce System and Other Stakeholders:
Successful applicants will demonstrate that they have performed outreach to, and gathered information on, relevant entities in the community(-ies) to be served by the project, including entities that can provide data on the characteristics and skill needs of workers receiving TAA benefits and services in the community. For purposes of the TAACCCT program, a "community" or "region" is a city, county, or other political subdivision of a State or a group of political subdivisions of a State or of adjacent states. Applicants must align their programs with at least four types of key stakeholders in each of the communities represented: (i) Governors; (ii) employers and industry; (iii) the public workforce system; and (iv) philanthropic organizations, business-related and other non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and labor organizations.

Core Element 5: Alignment with Previously-Funded TAACCCT Projects: All applicants will conduct research on TAACCCT grantees that are developing and delivering content within the same targeted occupation or industry, or that have designed a technology infrastructure which enhances the teaching and learning experience. Since all instructional resources developed in previous rounds is openly licensed and freely used by all applicants, applicants can connect with previous grantees by incorporating existing OER into new curriculum. In addition, applicants can share program content or technological innovations, develop transferability and articulation agreements, cooperate on efforts to develop standardized credentials, and exchange best practices.

Core Element 6: Sector Strategies and Employer Engagement: Applicants are required to develop new and/or take to scale successful industry sector strategies. These sector strategies must focus on addressing employers' workforce needs by expanding or improving applicants' education and training programs based on the use of both traditional and real-time labor market information. Employers and regional industry representatives, and national industry representatives if applicable, will be actively engaged in designing and implementing the sector strategy in five key areas: (1) serving on the project's leadership team; (2) helping implement program strategies and goals; (3) identifying and mapping the necessary skills and competencies for the program(s); (4) assisting with curriculum development and designing the program; and (5) where appropriate, assisting with the design of an assessment or credential that will address industry skill needs. Relationships with employers and regional industry representatives will be sustained throughout the duration of the program and beyond.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Single Institution Applicants: The scope should appropriately reflect the ability of the individual institution to implement this project. Applicants are encouraged to consider appropriate and necessary

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infrastructure and equipment costs that will enable them to build capacity and successfully deliver the proposed programs. The Department encourages single institution applicants to focus their proposed project on one specific project strategy that can be fully implemented within the grant period with a scope that appropriately reflects the size of the requested funding amount, as opposed to implementing a series of complex strategies that may be challenging to complete within the grant period.

Consortium Applicants (Single-State Consortium and Multi-State Consortium Applicants): The Department encourages consortium applicants to consider systematic changes in education and workforce development that can be instituted as a result of the TAACCCT grant programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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