



**TRIVIUM CONSULTING:  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY BRIEF**



**National Science Foundation**

**Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration  
Workforce Innovation Fund Grants**

*Based on: Department of Labor (DOL) Program Solicitation CFDA: 17.283  
<http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-13-06.pdf>*

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Proposal Deadline: **June 18, 2014**

**FUNDING and AWARD INFORMATION**

Award Type and Amount Funding will be provided in the form of a grant. Approximately \$53 million is expected to be available to fund approximately 8 - 15 grants. No individual grant will exceed \$12 million. Applicants must conform to the specific funding limit associated with the proposed Project Type as listed below:

- Proposals under Project Type A must not exceed \$3 million, and evaluation costs must be no less than 15 percent of the total grant award.
- Proposals under Project Type B must not exceed \$6 million, and evaluation costs must be no less than 15 percent of the total grant award.
- Proposals under Project Type C must not exceed \$12 million, and evaluation costs must be no less than 15 percent of the total grant award.

Period of Performance: 60 months from the effective date of the grant, which will consist of:

- 12 months for planning and start-up;
- 36 months for technical grant performance; and
- 12 additional months to complete evaluation activities.

**Note:** Two Phases of Award All grants awarded under this Solicitation will be funded in two parts. Upon notification of selection, grantees will receive an initial partial award. The remaining balance of the award will be made available no later than September 30, 2015, contingent upon grantee completion of the start-up activities outlined below. Grantees that do not satisfy these Phase I requirements within the set timeframes may not receive the remaining balance of their grant funds. In this circumstance, a grantee would be required to work with ETA to modify the scope of the grant or the grant will be terminated.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible institutions are: 1) State Workforce Agencies; 2) Local Workforce Investment Boards; and 3) entities eligible to apply for WIA Section 166 grants. Current WIF grantees are eligible to apply; however, the proposed project cannot be an expansion of the current WIF project and must be entirely separate from any existing project funded under the WIF.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The ETA, DOL announces the availability of up to \$53 million in grant funds to be awarded under the Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) grant program and anticipates awarding between 8 - 15 grants. These funds support innovative approaches that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, outcomes for job seekers and employers, and cost-effectiveness. All projects funded under the WIF will be rigorously evaluated in order to build a body of knowledge about what works in workforce development. The purpose of the WIF is to support this job-driven approach to





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workforce development by funding innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, outcomes for job seekers and employers, and cost-effectiveness.

Grants funded under the WIF will achieve the following within the workforce system: 1) better results for jobseekers and employers – such as reduced duration of unemployment, increased educational gains that lead to work readiness, academic and industry-recognized credential attainment, increased earnings, increased competitiveness of employers, etc.; 2) greater efficiency in the delivery of quality services - such as more customers (job seekers or employers) served, decreased program attrition, increased customer throughput, faster entry into employment, achieving outcomes at a lower cost, or reduction in duplicative program components and related administrative costs; and 3) stronger cooperation across programs and funding streams – such as integrated data management information systems, braided funding<sup>1</sup>, or changes that create a more seamless service delivery experience for participants who need help from multiple programs.

ETA will support achievement of WIF goals by: 1) providing grantees with a comprehensive program of support for the achievement of grant objectives and outcomes throughout the life of the grant; 2) providing a national evaluation coordinator, who will work with grantees' evaluators to ensure consistent and high quality evaluations; and 3) broadly disseminating what ETA learns about what worked, and what did not. ETA expects that WIF grantees will actively participate in both implementation and evaluation technical assistance activities and facilitate dissemination activities, as a condition of grant award.

Potential applicants should note that the Department plans to offer a separate funding opportunity under the WIF in Fall 2014 consisting of planning grants for states interested in undertaking the types of large-scale systemic reform and systems alignment projects that require further planning and preparation. In 2015, the Department anticipates awarding implementation grants to recipients of the planning grants whose planning processes have yielded the most innovative and highest-impact ideas. More information on the Fall funding opportunity will be made available at [http://www.doleta.gov/workforce\\_innovation](http://www.doleta.gov/workforce_innovation).

### **EXAMPLES OF INNOVATION**

To provide a better understanding of the types of service delivery and system reform strategies that are appropriate for the WIF, ETA is providing examples in five categories: (1) Improving coordination among programs and partners; (2) Improving service delivery at American Job Centers (AJCs); (3) Piloting or scaling programs and strategies that improve linkages between employment and training services and business need; (4) Implementing new procurement strategies; (5) Piloting or expanding new uses of technology.

### **TYPE OF GRANTS**

The Department awards three types of grants under this program as described below:

- **Project Type A:** New and Untested Ideas –provide funding to support the development of service delivery or system reform ideas that are supported by a strong logic model but whose efficacy has not been systematically studied. Projects proposed under this category should





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support new and more effective strategies for addressing widely shared challenges, and proposals and project documents should clearly state how the reform is a departure from existing workforce strategies. Type A projects are innovative, relatively untested, and significant to the broader workforce investment system.

- **Project Type B:** Promising Ideas –provide funding to support structural and/or service delivery reform ideas that either 1) have been implemented and evaluated previously, where evaluation results indicate some potential for positive impacts on participant or system-wide outcomes; or 2) are supported by strong evidence of positive change, but have never before been implemented by the applicant. Projects that are new to the applicant, but have been implemented elsewhere and evaluated using: 1) pre- post data analysis showing statistically significant positive change; 2) quasi- experimental evaluation showing statistically significant positive change; and/or 3) random assignment impact evaluation showing statistically significant positive change should be proposed as Project Type B. These grants will expand knowledge about the projects' efficacy and provide more information about the feasibility of implementing proven projects in different contexts.
- **Project Type C:** Adapting or Scaling Proven Ideas –provide funding to support significant expansion of structural and/or service delivery reform ideas that are supported by strong evidence of positive change from randomized controlled trial studies. Please note that applicant must demonstrate prior experience implementing the proposed ideas to qualify as Project Type C.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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