

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Employment and Training Administration

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR: Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Round 7:
A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border Regions

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Initial

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: FOA-ETA-26-23

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 17.280

Submit all applications in response to this announcement through <https://www.grants.gov>.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Expected Total Available Funding	\$49,200,000
Expected Number of Awards	6-24
Funding Range Per Award	\$2,000,000 - \$8,000,000

The funding available reflects the amounts available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriation, for Program Year (PY) 2025 and for which ETA must obligate by September 30, 2026. The Department reserves the right to also apply funding from the FY 2026 appropriation, up to an additional approximately \$54,000,000, to this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), should the Department receive sufficient qualifying applications.

Awards made under this Announcement are subject to the availability of federal funds. In the event that additional funds become available, we reserve the right to use these funds to select more grantees from the applications submitted in response to this Announcement.

KEY DATES:

Application Deadline	07/23/2026 We must receive applications no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time.
Expected Period of Performance Start Date	10/01/2026
Period of Performance Length	36

On approximately June 26, 2026, a pre-recorded Prospective Applicant Webcast will be available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants/apply/find-opportunities> and available for viewing any time after that date. While review of this Webcast is strongly encouraged to support successful grant applications, it is not mandatory.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL, or the Department, or we), announces the availability of grant funds for Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Round 7: A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border Regions.

The Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative Round 7 is a partnership between the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and three regional commissions—the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). WORC 7 will address the critical workforce needs of employers in high-growth and emerging industries across the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border regions (WORC regions). Eligible applicants include industry and employer associations; labor-management organizations; education/training providers; workforce development entities; Native American tribal governments and organizations; and state, county, and local governments. Eligible applicants will contribute to large-scale regional economic development models through the formation or enhancement of regional industry and sector partnerships that bring together employers, education and training providers, and workforce development entities, among other partners, to design and implement grant projects that embed industry-driven strategies, including Registered Apprenticeships, and enhance worker mobility. WORC 7 grant projects will be responsive to industry needs by providing both short-term training and longer-term career pathways programs. These career pathways programs will offer high-quality occupational skills training that leads to stackable credentials, capacity-building activities that support regional industry and sector partnerships’ training efforts and connect participants to robust supportive services that enable rural populations to successfully complete training and secure employment. Eligible training participants include dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce.

For further information or technical questions about this FOA, please contact Shanell McNamee, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Grants Management, at worc7_foa-eta-26-23@dol.gov and specifically reference FOA-ETA-26-23. This Announcement is available on the ETA website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants> and at <https://www.grants.gov>.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligible Applicants

The following are the eligible applicants, subject to the additional eligibility requirements described further below.

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Independent school districts
- Public/state controlled institutions of higher education
- Indian/Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Indian/Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized)
- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status, (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Other

The only organizations included in "Other" referenced above are State and Local Workforce Development Boards, Industry and Employer Associations, Labor-Management Organizations, Indian/Native American tribal governments (other than Federally recognized), and Indian/Native American tribal organizations (Federally recognized).

Lead Applicant

The lead applicant, based on the eligible applicant types listed above, will serve as the grantee and have overall fiscal and administrative responsibility for the grant. Eligible lead applicants must: 1) fall into one of the six categories of organizations described below; 2) operate within the WORC regions; 3) establish or collaborate with an existing regional industry and sector partnership that includes the entities described as required partners in Section III.I; and 4) function as the sector convener or intermediary to guide, support, and champion the work of the sector partnership. While an eligible lead applicant may represent one of the required partners listed in Section III.I, applicants must demonstrate quality representation from each of the 3-4 required partner categories (see Section III.I. Required Partnerships for more information). Therefore, the lead applicant cannot serve as more than one type of required partner for the purpose of meeting the Section III.I requirements.

As stated above, among the eligible applicant types provided, the lead applicant must also fall into one of the six categories of organizations listed below and must specify their organization type on the Abstract.

- **Industry and Employer Associations** including regional industry associations, employer associations, or employer intermediary organizations such as chambers of commerce, which may have a cross-industry or broad talent strategy focus or may be focused on specific industry sectors; if focused on specific industries, these should target skilled trades/construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, or business/professional occupations. See Appendix A for definitions of these industry sectors. An industry association, also known as a trade association, industry trade group, business association, sector association, or industry body, is defined as an organization founded and funded by businesses that operate in the relevant sectors above. An employer association is defined as a collective organization that represents and supports the interests of its member employers, providing advice, advocacy, and representation in workplace matters.
- **Labor-Management Organizations** that support collaborative efforts between employers and workers in the skilled trades/construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, or business/professional services sectors.
- **Education/Training Provider(s):** Public or private nonprofit education and training providers, including public or other non-profit institutions of higher education as defined in Section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); Historically black colleges and universities; Tribal colleges and universities; community and technical colleges and systems; independent school districts; nonprofit and community-based organizations that offer job training, and non-profit organizations that provide training programs, including programs on the State's Eligible Training Provider List under WIOA.
- **Workforce Development Entities** involved in administering the public workforce system established under WIOA, including State and Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and Indian and Native American Program entities eligible for funding under WIOA Section 166 (29 U.S.C. 3221).
- **Native American Tribal Governments and Organizations** which are defined as the governing bodies of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, or any affiliated tribal organization that provides relevant education and training services to tribal members.
- **State, County, and Local Governments**, including cities and townships, and State Workforce Agencies (State government agencies that receive funds pursuant to the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) to administer the State's public labor exchange activities or the lead state agency responsible for the administration of WIOA title I activities).

The lead applicant must also have the organizational capacity to carry out the grant.

Responsibilities include:

- Being the point of contact that receives and responds to all inquiries or communications from DOL;
- Maintaining authority to withdraw or draw down funds through the Department of Health and Human Services - Payment Management System (HHS-PMS);
- Submitting all required deliverables, regardless of which partnership member performed the work;

- Agreeing to amend the grant agreement or statement of work as necessary;
- Carrying out the programmatic functions of the grant;
- Overseeing and managing all expenditures under the grant;
- Coordinating with the national evaluator, as needed, if selected by DOL to participate in a grant program evaluation; and
- Working with DOL to close out the grant.

See also Funding Restrictions in Section III.H and Application Screening Criteria in Section VI.A to learn more about lead applicant requirements.

Faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply, as are all organizations. Those that meet the eligibility requirements may receive awards under this funding opportunity. DOL will not, in the selection of recipients and administration of the grant, discriminate on the basis of an organization’s religious character, affiliation, exercise, or lack thereof, or on the basis of conduct that would not be considered grounds to favor or disfavor a similarly situated secular organization.

2. Number of Applications Applicants May Submit

We will consider only one application from each organization. If an organization submits multiple applications, only the most recently received application that meets the deadline will be considered. If the most recent application is disqualified for any reason, we will not replace it with an earlier application.

B. Cost Sharing

This program does not require cost sharing (including matching) funds. Applicants that include such funds will not receive additional consideration during the review process. Instead, the agency considers any resources contributed to the project beyond the funds provided by the agency as leveraged resources. Section [IV.B](#) provides more information on leveraged resources. The Department strongly encourages applicants to contribute leveraged funds to provide supportive services, expand the training types offered, and/or sustain effective models beyond the life of the grant.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section II.B Cost Sharing.

C. Period of Performance

The performance period on the front page of this FOA includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

We expect that start-up activities, such as hiring appropriate grant program staff and project design activities, will begin immediately after grant award. Grantees are expected to start enrolling participants in high-quality training programs and Registered Apprenticeship programs by at least month nine, though sooner is preferred. We strongly encourage grantees to develop their internal project work plans and timelines accordingly. Grantees must plan to fully expend grant funds during the period of performance. DOL does not anticipate period of performance extensions under this FOA.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose

WORC 7 will invest in large-scale regional industry and sector partnerships that will design and implement industry-driven training programs that close skills gaps and increase the talent pipeline in critical sectors and support increased worker mobility by engaging individuals disconnected from the workforce and offering career pathways into high-wage occupations for rural populations in WORC regions. For the purposes of this FOA, a large-scale regional area means multiple counties (or parishes), jurisdictions, municipalities, metropolitan statistical areas, or census tracts within one state or across state lines. WORC 7 grant projects are intended to support economic development models that are broad in scale and scope to ensure maximum impact across the WORC regions.

Successful applicants will develop grant projects focused on at least one of the following high-growth and emerging industry sectors: skilled trades/construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, and business/professional services. Sector partnerships comprised of employers, education and training providers, and workforce development entities, at a minimum, will collectively develop or enhance programs to provide the critical skills and credentials to meet the needs of employers in the targeted service areas through a variety of training options. These training options will include early occupational and career exposure opportunities through career and technical education (CTE) that offers dual enrollment that leads to recognized postsecondary credentials; high-quality, short-term training programs that aim to become eligible for the newly authorized Workforce Pell Grants; as well as Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs that lead into Registered Apprenticeships.

In turn, rural communities historically hard-hit by economic distress will receive training and education opportunities and resources that lead to employment and wage growth and stimulate economic mobility, self-sufficiency, and increased labor force participation. These federal workforce investments will support America's reindustrialization and equip American workers to fill the growing demand for skilled trades and other occupations. Through these efforts, WORC 7 will support the implementation of [America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age](#), [Executive Order 14278: Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future](#), and the Administration's priority goal for reaching and surpassing one million active apprentices.

Due to the unique experiences and circumstances facing communities across the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border regions, the WORC regional commissions will provide technical assistance to prospective applicants in their respective regions, as well as assistance and support to grantees throughout the life of the Initiative. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the websites for the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), [Delta Regional Authority](#), or [Northern Border Regional Commission](#) for more information, including dates and locations for pre-application technical assistance meetings.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

WORC 7 will fund grants to regional industry and sector partnerships that will develop, enhance, or expand workforce solutions that support implementation of America's Talent Strategy in WORC regions by addressing the following core elements:

- **Core Element 1: Industry-Driven Strategies**

- Successful applicants will contribute to economic development models driven by the needs of industry across a large-scale regional area. See Section III.A for the definition of a "large-scale regional" area. Grantees should support a large, regional partnership that addresses similar workforce needs, including emerging workforce needs resulting from new investments in U.S. manufacturing, energy production, technology, and infrastructure.
- Regional industry and sector partnerships will identify and address the workforce challenges of their targeted service areas. Grant projects will be designed to build or strengthen reliable talent pipelines across a large regional area that are responsive to industry needs in high-growth and emerging industry sectors and help individuals in rural communities reenter and advance in the labor market.
- WORC 7 grant projects must focus on at least one of the following high-growth and emerging industry sectors: skilled trades/construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, and business/professional services occupations. Applicants must target occupations with demonstrated higher-level skills and wage progression opportunities along an identified career pathway. Examples include but are not limited to progressing from an equipment operator to crane operator; a certified nursing assistant to a licensed practical nurse; material handler to a maintenance technician; or an accountant to a financial advisor.
- Applicants will bring together partnerships of employers, industry partners, education and training providers, workforce development entities, regional and state partners, as well as WORC region partners from local economic areas within the targeted service area that share workforce needs. These industry and sector partnerships will identify and develop a variety of career pathways to meet their industry needs. Programs of study will include CTE programs and high school dual enrollment programs, shorter-term programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials and support immediate hiring requirements for employers (such as those that may qualify for Workforce Pell), and high-quality work-based learning opportunities, including pre-apprenticeships. All industry and sector partnerships must incorporate Registered Apprenticeships into their training strategy as a career pathway for new entrants to the industry and for incumbent worker upskilling. This can include developing new Registered Apprenticeship programs designed to meet the specific needs of the target industry, expanding existing Registered Apprenticeship programs, and enhancing partnerships with education and training providers to deliver the related instruction component of Registered Apprenticeship programs.
- Examples of existing large-scale industry and sector partnerships include:
 - *Cyber ACCESS (Appalachian Community Colleges Eco-System Sustainability)*: This collaborative project is advancing cybersecurity workforce training programs across 30 community colleges in all 13 Appalachian states. The Cyber ACCESS project aims to directly increase the number of qualified cybersecurity professionals in Appalachia by facilitating collaboration between employers and community colleges to upskill and train regional talent; preparing students to obtain new and

existing credentials; and creating regional communities of cybersecurity practice for knowledge-sharing.

- *The Maine Construction Industry Workforce Partnership*: An innovative regional sector partnership in the Northeast, that brings together the construction industry, workforce development entities, and seven community colleges to strategize and expand short-term construction training opportunities for jobseekers that result in an industry-recognized credential, upskill incumbent workers to advance to higher-skilled positions, promote wage progression, and expand the talent pipeline.

- **Core Element 2: Worker Mobility**

- Successful applicants will address worker mobility by prioritizing the needs of the WORC regions' disconnected workforce, including individuals receiving public benefits and subject to enhanced work requirements, and addressing barriers to employment through rural community reengagement efforts. Applicants will also support the mobility and career advancement of incumbent workers and develop clear pathways for these individuals to gain the skills necessary to secure higher-paying employment within the target industry sectors. Grant projects will embed the use of skills-based assessments into participant intake to determine baseline competencies and recognize prior experience in establishing their workforce development service strategy and career plan.
- Regional industry and sector partnerships will strategize effective ways to leverage resources and provide robust supportive services that assist workers with challenges to persistence and completion of training and help them secure and retain employment within the target industry sectors. These partnerships will leverage other sources of funding, including through community-based organizations and other federal and state programs to sustainably support WORC regions' residents' ongoing needs. Successful applicants may supplement the supportive services provided through these partnerships with grant-funded supportive services to cover unmet needs after exhausting opportunities to use leveraged resources and funding. See Section III.H for funding restrictions. Partnerships are also encouraged to explore ways to use leveraged resources to provide targeted supportive services to participants who have exited their training program, if such services are designed to maintain employment and temporarily replace lost benefits as the exited participant secures higher earnings through employment.
- Grantees are encouraged to use grant funds to support the use of and/or connection to Learning and Employment Records (LERs), as well as regional Talent Marketplaces, with the aim of strengthening the connection between skill development and employment outcomes, to create a sustainable workforce ecosystem.

Required Activities

Projects funded by WORC 7 **must** offer a grant-funded industry-driven training program that consists of an appropriate and relevant combination of the following:

- **Occupational skills training resulting in a credential of value** (see [TEN 25-19](#)) in regionally high-demand industry sectors including skilled trades, construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, and business/professional services.
 - This training model must offer and include all of the below components; however, not every **participant** needs to receive each component (e.g., not every participant needs to participate in a Registered Apprenticeship).
 - Work-based learning such as pre-apprenticeships, or on-the-job training (OJT) that is paired with related instruction/classroom training.
 - Registered Apprenticeship programs.
 - Training should emphasize third-party validated credentials related to occupational priorities. Applicants looking for information on which credentials are relevant for which occupations can use DOL's [Certification Finder](#) currently housed in the CareerOneStop website, credential registries developed by states, Credential Engine, and/or a similar functional tool to map needed skills to occupations.
 - All training programs must lead to a recognized postsecondary credential. A recognized postsecondary credential is a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of a Registered Apprenticeship, a license recognized by the state involved or Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. For further information, see [TEN 25-19 Understanding Postsecondary Credentials in the Public Workforce System](#). A project's employer or industry/trade association partners should validate the recognized postsecondary credential(s) offered through the training model as directly aligned with the skill demands and hiring requirements of the target occupations.
 - Regional industry and sector partnerships must develop strong supportive service strategies that benefit rural populations and help increase labor force participation. Generally, supportive services (see Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 19-16 and Section III.G. Definitions for a detailed description) are customized to meet the specific needs of an individual to help enable them to participate in or complete a workforce development program and secure employment.
 - Successful applicants must leverage resources and funding, including through community-based organizations and other local, state or federally funded programs, to provide supportive services. Up to 10 percent of grant funds may be used to supplement the supportive services leveraged from other resources to cover unmet needs after exhausting opportunities to use leveraged resources and funding. Grantees who provide supportive services with grant funds are required to assess all participants for supportive service need using a consistent policy.

- **Capacity-building activities** that support regional industry and sector partnerships to develop and implement training that is responsive to industry needs. This could include program development activities to establish Registered Apprenticeship programs, such as

creating standards and curriculum, registering programs, building employer partnerships, or enhancing data systems to track and measure effectiveness. Other capacity-building activities could include the development of new programs, or the enhancement of existing programs, designed to meet Workforce Pell eligibility requirements, which offer career pathways with multiple on- and off-ramps resulting in stackable short-term credentials. Successful applicants may also consider leveraging or enhancing existing employment and training infrastructure such as Talent Marketplaces or Learning and Employment Records (LERs). Additional examples include activities to expand and sustain regional industry and sector partnerships and elements of the program design beyond the life of the grant.

Other Allowable Activities

The following activities are also allowable, but not required:

- In-person and/or virtual classroom training can be provided as a standalone activity, separate from a training model that incorporates structured work-based learning. Such training must be validated by industry and responsive to employers' needs.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) literacy development, which may be provided in the context of OJT, occupational training, or a classroom setting (see [TEN 07-25](#), *The U.S. Department of Labor's Artificial Intelligence Literacy Framework*).
- Funding incentive-based reimbursement training models for employers, such as the [Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund Grant Program](#). In such models, employers commit to upskilling current employees and create entry pipelines and pathways for hiring and training new employees, and in turn, they are reimbursed for training that is responsive to rapidly evolving skill demands and local workforce conditions. The goal is to encourage businesses to invest in workforce training that can effectively respond to those changes and build a stronger talent pipeline for the targeted industries.
- Employment-related services such as career coaching/mentoring, in-depth participant assessments, and job matching services.
- Digital literacy training (see Appendix A).

See Section III.H. Funding Restrictions, Policies and Limitations for more information on the use of grant funds for the above-mentioned required and optional activities.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage other resources to support and expand their training program activities. Leveraged resources may include, but are not limited to, Governor's Reserve and other WIOA funds, including DOL's [American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund](#), other leveraged federal resources, if applicable, such as the Department of Education's [Connecting Talent to Opportunity Challenge](#), as well as non-federal resources, such as state funds or non-government resources. Such resources could help with providing additional incentives for employers to train, hire and upskill their employees, as well as providing additional funding to support the buildout and enhancement of Talent Marketplaces and LERs.

C. Expected Performance Outcomes

To demonstrate program effectiveness and ensure performance accountability, successful applicants will be required to collect, track, and report data for the following indicators and outcome measures:

I. Tracking Indicator

- a. Total number of participants who received education/job training activities

II. Performance Outcome Measures

- a. Total number of participants who completed education/job training activities
- b. Total number of participants who entered Registered Apprenticeship programs
- c. Total number of participants who entered training-related employment after training program completion

As part of your application, you will provide targets for each indicator and outcome measure. Appendix B provides instructions for submitting targets and contains a sample target table you can include as an attachment. The instructions include detailed definitions of each indicator and outcome measure and the required target submission format. Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review the performance reporting requirements for this Initiative and propose targets that align with their project design, are attainable, and will demonstrate effective use of grant funds to achieve the goals of this grant program.

While applicants are required to propose targets for the tracking indicator and performance outcome measures identified above, which are specific to this FOA, the following WIOA primary indicators of performance will also be tracked for all awarded grants:

III. WIOA Primary Indicators of Performance

- a. Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit
- b. Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit
- c. Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit
- d. Credential Attainment

Applicants are not required to provide targets for these WIOA indicators. Employment Rate and Median Earnings Indicators are tracked by DOL on behalf of grantees using the [Common Reporting Information System \(CRIS\)](#). Grantees are responsible for tracking and reporting Credential Attainment.

D. Funding Type

Funding will be provided in the form of a Grant. Throughout this FOA, all references to grants are applicable to cooperative agreements.

We expect availability of approximately \$49,200,000 to fund approximately 6-24 grants. The funding available reflects the amounts available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriation, for Program Year (PY) 2025 and for which ETA must obligate by September 30, 2026. The Department reserves the right to also apply funding from the FY 2026 appropriation, up to an additional approximately \$54,000,000, to this FOA, should the Department receive sufficient qualifying applications. In the event that sufficient applications are received, we reserve the right to use such funds to select additional grantees from the applications submitted in response to this Announcement. Applicants may apply for awards ranging from \$2,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

E. Eligible Participants

All participants enrolled in WORC 7 grant projects must live or work within a community that is part of the WORC regions. Participants eligible to receive services provided through this program represent three primary categories that are named in the appropriation: new entrants to

the workforce, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers. We note that these categories are flexible enough to generally encompass any individual (including older youth) seeking training and employment opportunities. These broad categories of eligible participants include within them low-income individuals, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, and the long-term unemployed, among others. See Section III.G. Definitions for specific definitions of each category of eligible participant.

Note: Grant recipients must establish, document, and follow the documented process to determine an individual's eligibility to be enrolled in the project prior to enrollment and maintain documentation on the eligibility of all enrolled participants.

Veterans' Priority for Participants

[38 U.S.C. 4215](#) requires DOL grantees to provide priority of service to veterans and spouses of certain veterans for employment, training, and placement services in any job training program directly funded, in whole or in part, by DOL.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section III.E Veterans' Priority for Participants.

F. Program Authority

Section 169(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorizes this program. The funds for this grant program are appropriated in Titles I and IX of Pub. L. 119-4, Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, March 15, 2025. The Department also may use funding appropriated in Title I of Div. B of Pub. L. 119-75, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.

G. Definitions

See Appendix A for definitions specific to this FOA.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.G Definitions.

H. Funding Restrictions, Policies and Limitations

All proposed project costs must be necessary and reasonable and in accordance with federal guidelines.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section III.H Funding Restrictions, Policies and Limitations.

Evaluation and Data-Related Costs

Labor and other costs related to data and evaluation are allowable, as defined in 2 CFR Part 200.455. Data and evaluation activities may include staff participating in interviews, focus groups, and surveys; staff working to execute data sharing agreements; staff preparing datasets required for an evaluation; staff participating in evaluation meetings; and other costs related to DOL's evaluations and data-related activities.

Use of Grant Funds for Work-Based Learning

All participants in work-based learning activities provided as part of a training program funded by this grant must be paid. Participants are paid wages by participating employers for any work-based learning activities. Grant funds may be used to reimburse employers for a portion of participants' wages depending on the type of work-based learning activity and as outlined below.

See Appendix A for additional descriptions of each work-based learning type.

- **On-the-job training (OJT):** Grant funds can be used to reimburse employers for a percentage of the participant wages to offset OJT activity costs. Through the [OJT contract](#), occupational training is provided for the [WIOA participant](#) in exchange for the reimbursement, typically up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the participant, for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and supervision related to the training. However, grantees may reimburse OJT up to 75 percent of the wage rate of the participant when appropriate based on the size of the employer, the quality of the training, or the qualifications of the participants.

We also encourage grantees to negotiate lower rates or variable rates (such as starting at the maximum allowable reimbursement rate and reducing the subsidy over time) where possible to ensure that the maximum number of participants will be served by the project.

The following are additional restrictions for OJT:

- Participant OJT placements may only be reimbursed for private for-profit and nonprofit sectors. While the grant allows for public sector OJT placements, they are not allowed to be reimbursed for any portion of the training costs with grant funds;
 - No placement may be made through staffing agencies providing workers on a temporary basis to employers for which the agency receives compensation from an employer; and
 - The period of reimbursement should be an adequate length to ensure the participant has acquired the technical skills needed for employment, but no longer than 12 months. Individuals may not be co-enrolled in other programs for the purpose of extending OJT employer reimbursement beyond 12 months. Twelve months exceeds the average length of time for current OJT activities; therefore, grantees should negotiate contracts with employers that lead transitioning participants to permanent employment as soon as possible. Grantees may establish contracts that will be longer than 12 months for multiple participants; however, the reimbursement for each individual that participates in OJT cannot be longer than 12 months.
- **Registered Apprenticeship programs:** Grant funds can be used to reimburse employers for up to 50 percent of the participant's hourly wage for the duration of the Registered Apprenticeship, up until the grant's period of performance ends. Grant funds can also be used to pay for any costs of the related instruction component of a Registered Apprenticeship program and to provide supportive services to participants while they are in a Registered Apprenticeship program, consistent with the requirements for supportive services explained below.
 - **Pre-apprenticeships:** Pre-apprenticeship, as defined in [20 CFR 681.480](#), means a program designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in a Registered Apprenticeship and includes the following elements: 1) Training and curriculum that aligns with the skill needs of employers in the economy of the state or region involved; 2)

Access to educational and career counseling and other supportive services, directly or indirectly; 3) Hands-on, meaningful learning activities that are connected to education and training activities, such as exploring career options, and understanding how the skills acquired through coursework can be applied toward a future career; 4) Opportunities to attain at least one industry-recognized credential; and 5) A partnership with one or more Registered Apprenticeships that assists in placing individuals who complete the pre-apprenticeship program in a Registered Apprenticeship.

Supportive Services

Regional industry and sector partnerships must develop supportive service strategies in which they prioritize leveraging other resources to provide supportive services to participants, including through co-enrolling participants in WIOA. Grantees may use up to 10 percent of grant funds to supplement other leveraged resources for supportive services. See Section III.G for the definition of supportive services. Grantees who provide supportive services with grant funds are required to assess all participants for supportive service need using a consistent policy.

To be an allowable expenditure, a supportive service may only be provided:

- After a participant has been assessed for need; and
- To address a specific barrier identified during the needs assessment that prevents the individual from fully participating in training.

See Section IV.C.3 for more information on supportive services.

Incentive Payments

Grantees may use up to 1.5 percent of grant funds to incentivize grant participants or former grant participants to provide information about grant outcomes, such as employment status after they complete their training program. These incentives can be provided as gift cards or other payments. Grantees must have a policy in place about how incentives will be distributed prior to using grant funds for incentives. The use of grant funds for incentive payments other than to collect participant information on grant outcomes is not allowed.

Equipment and Minor Alterations

Expenditures for equipment and/or minor alterations, if specific to the project, are allowable with prior written approval from the Grant Officer. Total costs to the grant of all equipment purchased cannot exceed 15 percent, or \$100,000, of a grant award, whichever is less. Equipment purchased with grant funds must be installed and ready to use no later than 24 months from the start of the period of performance.

The award of a grant under this FOA does not constitute prior approval of equipment or minor alterations. After grant awards are made, grantees will be required to obtain specific Grant Officer approval before acquiring equipment or proceeding with proposed alteration of facilities. The Grant Officer must determine that all proposed equipment and/or alterations are (1) allocable, necessary, and reasonable; (2) tied to specific grant-related deliverables and outcomes outlined in the grantee's statement of work (SOW); and (3) consistent with the FOA. Applicants proposing to spend grant funds on equipment and/or alterations must demonstrate in their SOW and budget narrative how these expenditures will further the goals of their training program.

Grant Profit

While for-profit entities are not eligible applicants, for-profit education/training providers are eligible as partner organizations.

For all grant recipients and sub-recipients, the earning of profit is not an allowable cost item. Earnings above actual costs incurred are to be treated as program income. Any program income earned must be used for program purposes.

Salary and Bonus Limitations

By law, no “Employment and Training Administration” appropriated funds may be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. The Executive Level II salary may change yearly and is located on the [OPM.gov website](http://OPM.gov). This limitation does not apply to contractors (vendors) providing goods and services as defined in 2 CFR 200.331. Where states are recipients of such funds, states may establish a lower limit for salaries and bonuses paid by subrecipients. To establish these limits, states may consider the relative cost of living in the state, the salary levels for comparable state or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer Federal programs involved, including ETA programs. See the [Program Authority](#) found in TEGL 10-24 for additional information.

I. Required Partnerships

Robust and sustainable industry and sector partnerships are a critical component of WORC 7. Successful applicants must demonstrate they have signed partnership agreements in place with all required partners to support an effective industry and sector partnership that will quickly convene, strategize, and mobilize to implement effective grant projects that meet the goals of this initiative. Applicants must identify the following required partners, **at a minimum**, in the proposed service area, though other partners may also be included in the project design and proposal:

1. **Employers:** At least three employers or industry/trade associations (for each proposed industry sector) who will be engaged in the industry and sector partnership and willing to commit to offering interviewing or hiring opportunities for open positions for successful program participants or upskilling opportunities for existing employees, as well as supporting the project through these additional strategies:
 - Providing feedback on job requirements, necessary credentials, and training content;
 - Offering work-based learning and participating in Registered Apprenticeship programs in the targeted industry(ies) to participants; and
 - Identifying recruitment and referral networks for participant outreach.
2. **Workforce Development Entities:** At least one entity involved in administering the public workforce system established under WIOA, including State and Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), Indian and Native American Program entities eligible for funding under WIOA Section 166 (29 U.S.C. 3221), and American Job Center operators or [partner programs](#). The inclusion of a workforce system partner will allow the grantee to build upon existing infrastructure rather than spark duplication and will contribute to the sustainability of the project after the grant period concludes.
3. **Education/Training Provider(s):** At least one public or private education and training provider, including institutions of higher education as defined in Section 101(a) of the

Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); Historically black colleges and universities; Tribal colleges and universities; community and technical colleges and systems; independent school districts; nonprofit and community-based organizations that offer job training, including that provide training programs included on the State's Eligible Training Provider List under WIOA.

4. **State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs):** Applicants proposing Registered Apprenticeships in states with federally recognized SAAs must include the SAA as a required grant partner, if the SAA partnership is required for activities proposed in the grant application (such as developing and registering new apprenticeship programs).

Applicants may only represent one required partnership role.

At a minimum, applicants must provide signed documentation of commitment in their application from all employer partners. Successful applicants will have up to 30 days from grant award to submit documentation of commitment for any remaining required partners. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit documentation of commitment from as many required partners as possible at the time of application submission. Documentation of commitment includes letters of commitment or other types of signed agreement that clearly indicate: 1) the roles, 2) responsibilities, and 3) contributions (e.g., financial, other resources, etc.) of the partner in the grant activity. See Appendix D for further examples and details.

Failure to include complete documentation from **all required employer partners** will result in the applicant not receiving full points under the Sector Partnership and Industry Engagement rating factor in the Project Narrative. Applications will be evaluated on the level and quality of involvement of required partners in the project as documented in the signed commitments.

Optional Partners

Applicants are encouraged to consider including optional partners, where relevant, that support the goals of their sector partnership and proposed training programs. Other organizations that can support this work include, but are not limited to:

- Labor organizations,
- Community-based organizations,
- Economic development agencies,
- Foundations and philanthropic organizations,
- Faith-based organizations, and
- ETA Office of Apprenticeship industry intermediaries.

IV. APPLICATION CONTENT AND FORMAT

Applications submitted in response to this FOA must consist of four separate and distinct parts:

- A. SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance";
- B. Project Budget, composed of the SF-424A and Budget Narrative;
- C. Project Narrative; and
- D. Attachments to the Project Narrative.

You must make sure that the funding amount requested is consistent across all parts and sub-parts of the application. You must submit your application in one package. Documents received separately will be tracked separately and will not be attached to your application for review.

A. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

You must complete the SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance”

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section IV.A SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.

B. Project Budget, Composed of the SF-424A and Budget Narrative

You must complete the SF-424A Budget Information Form and a Budget Narrative. The Budget and Budget Narrative do not count against the page limit requirements for the Project Narrative.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section IV.B Project Budget, Composed of the SF-424A and Budget Narrative.

C. Project Narrative

You must include a Project Narrative with your application. The Project Narrative shows that the applicant can implement the grant project explained in this Announcement. Applicants must describe how they will meet the requirements listed below. Applicants must show that their planned activities will meet the project goals. As appropriate, applicants should see Section [IX](#). Resources, E. DOL’s Clearinghouse for Evaluation and Research (CLEAR) and DOL’s Chief Evaluation Office as well as F. Data and Other Evidence Resources for starting places to find research that could provide evidence of a sound approach.

The Project Narrative is limited to 20 double-spaced single-sided 8.5 x 11-inch pages with Times New Roman 12-point text font and 1-inch margins. It must include the section headers listed below. The agency will evaluate the Project Narrative using the evaluation criteria identified in Section [VI.B](#). We will not read or consider any materials beyond the specified page limit (except for attachments listed in Section [IV.D](#) that impact the scoring of the application).

1. Statement of Need (Up to 20 Points)

Scoring under this criterion will be based on the extent to which the discussion of the following factors is clear, logical, well-supported, and an accurate interpretation of data provided. All data sources must include citations that provide information that enables the identification and verification of data. To receive full points for this section, the applicant must fully address each of the following:

1. Describe the proposed service area within the WORC region, including both relevant states and counties. If particular cities or communities will be targeted for the effort, please describe.
2. Identify the targeted industry sector(s) and associated occupation(s) for the grant project. WORC 7 grant projects must focus on at least one of the following industry sectors: skilled trades/construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, domestic energy production, and business/professional services occupations. Applicants must target occupations with demonstrated higher-level skills and wage progression opportunities along an identified career pathway (see Section III.A and B).

3. Provide a detailed and convincingly supported description of the current and future projected regional labor market demand for skilled workers in the targeted occupation(s). Applicants must discuss this need using quantitative and qualitative terms and cite the source(s) for the projected demand, such as Bureau of Labor Statistics or other DOL sources, state workforce agency sources, employers, or other written labor market information (LMI) provided by employers or other knowledgeable parties. To the extent possible, all data provided should reflect the geographic scope proposed.
4. Include an assessment of the desired skills and existing skill gaps for the targeted occupations identified by industry/employer partners using supporting LMI evidence.

2. Expected Outcomes and Outputs (Up to 10 Points)

To receive full points for this section, the applicant must fully address each of the following:

1. Include one performance table that contains numerical targets (cumulative three-year targets) for the one tracking indicator and three performance outcome measures. (See Section III.C, Section IV.D., and Appendix B).
2. Convincingly explain why the numerical targets are feasible and appropriate for the design of the program. This includes demonstrating what data has been leveraged (including sources) to estimate program targets. Additionally, demonstrate the plan to recruit, enroll, and begin training enough participants to meet the proposed targets during the period of performance.
3. Describe an effective process to track and measure progress towards the grant project goals and demonstrate effectiveness in your grant project. This should include the systems and processes the applicant will use to provide timely and accurate financial and participant-level performance reporting. Specify the frequency and approach to obtain regular feedback from required partners and other partners (as applicable) to inform grant project operations and improvement.

Note that this section of the Project Narrative will be used to score applications on anticipated broad program impact. After grant award, DOL will use the performance outcome measures identified in Section III.C. Expected Performance Outcomes to assess the progress of successful applicants toward achieving the goals of this initiative. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that proposed outcomes and outputs clearly align with their project design and the goals of the WORC 7 Initiative; and are logical, reasonable, and achievable within the grant period of performance.

3. Program Design (Up to 30 Points)

To receive full points for this section, the applicant must fully address each of the following:

A. Occupational Training Model (Up to 22 Points)

- i. Clearly identify the occupational skills training strategy(ies) that will be used to prepare participants to fill critical occupations and thoroughly demonstrate that they are responsive to industry needs in the proposed service area. This must include a description of the proposed training strategies and career pathways and how they support both shorter-term and longer-term training and credentialing opportunities. Provide a crosswalk of the needed skills to the proposed occupations using DOL's [Certification Finder](#), credential registries developed by

states, Credential Engine, [Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\) Standard Occupational Classification \(SOC\) Crosswalk](#) or similar functional tool.

- ii. Provide a comprehensive description of the training program pathway, clearly explaining:
 - a. the sequence of the training activities from start to finish,
 - b. the requisite skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to enter into the program and those necessary to successfully complete the program,
 - c. the grant-funded, industry-recognized postsecondary credentials to be attained through the training program,
 - d. the anticipated length of time for the training to be completed,
 - e. the proposed strategy(ies) to ensure program completers gain employment or advance into the targeted critical occupations during the period of performance, and
 - f. the integration of Registered Apprenticeship options for participants.
- iii. Describe how the applicant plans to recruit and use skills-based assessments for training participants to identify their current skills, competencies, and training needs.
- iv. Describe the regional industry and sector partnership's strategy to leverage resources and provide supportive services to participants. Identify other funding sources that may be used to provide these services. Describe the strategy to assess program participants for the supportive services. Include the types of supportive services the partnership plans to offer and the policies that will be used to provide such services. If applicable, include the percentage and amount of grant funds that will be used to supplement leveraged resources for this purpose.
- v. Describe any additional strategies that may be used to address the needs of the WORC region's incumbent workers and disconnected workforce, including individuals receiving public benefits and subject to enhanced work requirements, and how the partnership will address specific barriers to employment.

B. Other Industry-Driven Strategies to Support Worker Mobility (Up to 8 Points)

- i. Describe the proposed capacity-building strategies that support regional industry and sector partnerships develop and implement training that is responsive to industry needs in the targeted service area. Demonstrate how these capacity-building activities will address worker mobility within the WORC region. Examples of such strategies are listed in Section III.B, Required Activities.
- ii. Identify any additional strategies beyond direct participant training and capacity building that will be used for the grant project. Examples of such strategies are listed in Section III.B, Other Allowable Activities.
- iii. Explain why the above-mentioned strategies were chosen, including the population's needs within the specific WORC region and the local/regional industry need(s) this strategy aims to address.

4. Sector Partnership and Industry Engagement (Up to 20 Points)

To receive full points for this section, the applicant must fully address each of the following:

- i. Provide a concise description of the purpose of the project, including the shared goals of the regional industry and sector partnership. Describe the approach for ensuring the design and delivery of training aligns with industry needs and supports skills-based hiring. This includes explaining how the applicant plans to use the input, resources, and data from employers and other partners to design and implement the training. The applicant should describe how the training model is driven by industry needs (the skills, occupations, and credentials local/regional employers need) and how the applicant is leveraging the sector partnership to respond to those industry needs.
- ii. Clearly outline the specific roles of all required and optional partners in the grant project and how their efforts will support the project purpose and shared goals of the partnership.
- iii. The strategy for ongoing recruitment, communication, and engagement of industry champions, including employer partners and other required partners that are committed to filling critical jobs with new or dislocated workers, or upskilling incumbent workers. This must include an effective process for how the applicant will communicate expectations to partners, share progress against the project goals, and report required information to the Department.
- iv. Describe a reasonable plan for how the sector partnership will sustain the project beyond federal funding. This should include potential partner commitments and other quantifiable funding resources beyond the life of the grant.
- v. Documentation provided by partners as attachments confirm the partner's role, responsibilities, and contributions as described in the project narrative. Note: **At a minimum, applicants must provide signed documentation of commitment in their application from all employer partners.** Applicants must provide documentation of commitment from at least three employer partners for **each** industry sector proposed. Successful applicants will have up to 30 days from grant award to submit documentation of commitment for any remaining required partners, though applicants are strongly encouraged to submit as many partner commitments as possible with their application. Partner documentation can include letters of commitment, partnership agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other documentation reflecting a formalized commitment to the project by a partner. Applicants that fail to provide documentation of commitment from **all** required employer partners will receive zero points for this rating factor. Additionally, applicants will be assessed on the quality of the documentation of commitment provided. **Letters of support are not sufficient to satisfy this rating factor.** (See Section IV.D and Appendix D).

5. Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity (Up to 20 Points)

A. Organizational Capacity (Up to 16 Points)

To receive full points, the applicant must thoroughly describe, including citing clear supporting evidence, each of the following:

- i. The lead applicant must provide information (name of the project, name of grantor, and grantor contact information) on a project where they were the recipient of a similarly sized (approximately \$2,000,000 plus) education and training grant or project similar to the one proposed in this application that was completed within the last five years. (Up to 6 points)

This description must also explain:

- a. Training model, including:

- i. the industries and occupations in which participants were trained,
 - ii. the sequence of the training activities from start to finish,
 - iii. the credentials that were attained through the training program,
 - iv. the length of time to complete the training, and
 - v. the strategy(ies) that ensured program completers gained employment or advanced into the targeted critical occupations during the period of performance.
 - b. Outcomes and outputs, including:
 - i. the number of participants who entered training,
 - ii. the number of participants who completed training with a credential, and
 - iii. the number of participants who completed training with a credential and entered employment.
 - c. Service area and partnership scale, including:
 - i. geographic service area, and
 - ii. local/regional sector partnership representing and engaging partners across the entire service area.
- ii. A description of the applicant’s role in developing and sustaining effective local/regional industry and sector partnerships with employers and other key entities that lead to employment outcomes for participants. This should also include the capacity to collect and manage data from partners and participants and strategies used to incorporate industry partner needs into the training program model. (Up to 6 points)
Forms of acceptable supporting evidence may include references or citations from published program evaluations, performance outcome data from previous similar projects, articles in which your organization’s project is described, information or documentation from employer partners, or other verifiable or publicly available information.
- iii. Demonstrate the applicant’s capacity to effectively manage this grant project. This includes demonstrating sufficient staffing and identifying a project management plan and communications plan for effective management of all partners and staff. Provide a staffing plan that identifies the staff and partner roles, responsibilities, and dedicated time allocated to support this grant project. (Up to 4 points)

B. Budget and Budget Narrative (Up to 4 Points)

The Budget and Budget Narrative will be used to evaluate this section. Please see Section IV.B.2 for information on the requirements. The Budget and Budget Narrative do not count against the page limit requirements for the Project Narrative. Applicants will receive points for the budget and budget narrative as follows:

- i. The extent to which the proposed expenditures will address all project requirements, and whether key personnel have adequate time devoted to the project to achieve project results.

- ii. The extent to which the budget narrative provides a description of costs associated with each line item on the SF-424A, and includes the cost-per-participant. It should also include a complete description of leveraged resources provided (as applicable) to support grant activities.
- iii. Whether or not the totals on the SF-424A and the Budget Narrative align.

D. Attachments to the Project Narrative

In addition to the Project Narrative, the application also includes required and requested attachments as explained below (see Section [VI.A](#) on which required attachments must be submitted in order for the application to be reviewed). These attachments must be clearly labeled and do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit. Any other attachments included beyond those listed below will not be reviewed in the scoring of the application.

We encourage applicants to name the files using the document names listed below. Do not include special characters (e.g. &, -, *, %, /, #). However, underscores (for example: My_Attached_File.pdf) to separate a file name are acceptable.

1. Required Attachments

a. Abstract

You must submit an up to three-page abstract summarizing the proposed project. If you do not submit the abstract, your application will still be reviewed, but it may impact your score. See Section VI.A for a list of items that will result in the disqualification of your application. If you are selected for an award, the information provided in your abstract may be published to a public facing website as a summary of your project. The abstract must include the following:

- the lead applicant organization's name
- the lead applicant organization type (see Section II.A)
- the project title
- total funding
- leveraged funding (if applicable)
- lead applicant city/state
- required partners (specify the type of required partner entity being fulfilled; see Section III.I)
- optional partners
- large-scale regional area that is the target service area (provide the counties/parishes within each state that include any part of the service area)
- regional commission affiliation (ARC, DRA, or NBRC)
- target industries and occupations
- target eligible participant category (dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and/or new entrants to the workforce – applicants may serve any or all of the three target categories)
- summary of grant purpose and employment and training activities offered
- Registered Apprenticeship program or occupations targeted for the development of Registered Apprenticeship program

- credentials to be awarded
- projected number of participants to start education/training
- subrecipient names and roles
- public contact information

2. Requested Attachments

We request the following attachments. If you do not submit the attachments, your application will still be reviewed, but it will impact your score, unless otherwise noted.

a. Documentation of Commitment from Required Partners

Submit signed and dated Letters of Commitment (on organization letterhead) or Memoranda of Understanding between the applicant and all required partner organizations and/or sub-grantees that propose to provide services to support or evaluate the program model and lead to identified outcomes. **At a minimum, applicants must provide signed documentation of commitment in their application from all employer partners.** Successful applicants will have up to 30 days from grant award to submit documentation of commitment for any remaining required partners. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit as many partner commitments as possible with their application. See Section III.I Required Partnerships.

These letters must be uploaded as an attachment to the application package and labeled “Documentation of Commitment from Required Partners.”

b. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

If you are requesting indirect costs based on a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by your federal Cognizant Agency, then attach the most recently approved Agreement. (For more information, the [2026 Application Guide](#) Section III.H. This attachment does not impact scoring of the application.

This document must be uploaded as an attachment to the application package and labeled “NICRA.”

c. Financial System Risk Assessment Information

All applicants are requested to submit Funding Opportunity Announcement Financial System Risk Assessment Information. See Section [VI.D](#) for additional instructions. This attachment does not impact the scoring of the application.

d. Performance Target Table

The applicant must provide their projections for the tracking indicator and three performance outcome measures in the table, provided in Appendix B. The table must include the grant’s total targets (cumulative three-year targets) in the correct format for each indicator and outcome measure.

See Appendix B for definitions of each outcome/indicator and instructions for setting targets.

V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

A. How to Obtain an Application Package

This FOA, found at www.Grants.gov and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants/apply/find-opportunities> contains all of the information and links to forms needed to apply for grant funding.

B. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

All applicants for Federal grant funding must have a Unique Entity Identifier and be registered in the System for Award Management.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section V.B Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management.

C. Submission Instructions

Applicants must electronically submit their application through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on 07/23/2026. We will not review applications received after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date. We will not accept applications sent by hardcopy (mail or hand delivery), e-mail, telegram, or facsimile (FAX).

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section V.C Submission Instructions.

D. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

E. Other Submission Requirements

If you encounter a problem with Grants.gov and do not find an answer in any of the other resources, call 1-800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035 to speak to a Customer Support Representative or email support@grants.gov.

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Responsiveness Review

Application Screening Criteria

Use the checklist below as a guide when preparing your application package to ensure your application meets all of the screening criteria and contains all required items. Applicants should not include the checklist in the application package. Applications that do not meet all the requirements in the table below will not move forward through the merit review process or be considered for an award.

Application Requirement	Instructions	Complete?
Submission requirements are met	Section V.C	
Eligibility criteria are met	Section II.A	

Counties/Parishes specified on the Abstract as the target large-scale regional area must align with one of the required WORC regions (ARC, DRA, or NBRC).	Section III.A	
Components of the application are saved in one of the specified formats and are not corrupt. <i>(We will attempt to open the document but will not take any additional measures in the event of problems with opening.)</i>	Section V.C	
SAM Registration	Section V.B	
SF-424 includes a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and line 18a. does not exceed the ceiling amount of \$8,000,000.	Section V.B	
SF-424A, Budget Information Form	Section IV.B	
Budget Narrative	Section IV.B	
Project Narrative	Section IV.C	

B. Review Criteria

Criterion	Points (Maximum)
1. Statement of Need (See Section IV.C.1 Statement of Need)	20 total
2. Expected Outputs and Outcomes (See Section IV.C.2 Expected Outcomes and Outputs)	10 total
3. Project Design (See Section IV.C.3 Project Design)	30 total
4. Sector Partnership and Industry (See Section IV.C.4 Sector Partnership and Industry)	20 total
5. Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity (See Section IV.C.5 Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity)	20 total
TOTAL	100

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VI.B Review Criteria.

C. Review and Selection Process

Merit Review and Selection Process

A technical merit review panel will carefully evaluate applications based on the selection criteria. As outlined in section [VI.B](#) above, the selection criteria are based on the policy goals, and priorities explained in this FOA.

Up to 100 points may be awarded to an applicant, depending on the quality of the responses provided. The final scores (which may include the mathematical normalization of review panels) will serve as the primary basis for selecting applications for funding. The panel results are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer. The Grant Officer can make selections based solely on the final scores or to take into consideration other relevant factors when applicable. Such factors may include the geographic distribution of funds, the target industry sectors and occupations, the proposed training strategies, the availability of funds and other relevant factors. The Grant Officer may consider any information that comes to their attention.

The government may elect to award the grant(s) with or without discussion with the applicant. If a grant is awarded without discussion, the award will be based on the applicant's signature on the SF-424, including electronic signature via E-Authentication on <https://www.grants.gov>, which constitutes a binding offer by the applicant.

Prior to issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review in accordance with the process described in [Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."](#)

D. Risk Review

Risk Review Process

Before making an award, ETA will consider any information about the applicant that is in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313). For ETA to assess the applicant's Financial System, all applicants need to submit the Financial Risk Assessment explained in the application guide (Section VI.D) at the link below. For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VI.D Risk Review.

VII. AWARD NOTICES

A. Award Document

A Federal Notice of Award document, signed by the Grant Officer, is the official document that obligates funds. If selected, this document will be provided electronically.

B. Award Timing and Notification to Applicants

All award notifications will be posted on the ETA Homepage at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/>. Applicants selected for award will be contacted directly before the grant's execution. Non-selected applicants will be notified by email and may request a written debriefing on the significant weaknesses of their application.

Selection of an organization as a recipient does not mean that their grant application is approved as submitted. Before the actual grant is awarded, we may enter into negotiations about such

items as program components, staffing and funding levels, and administrative systems in place to support grant implementation. If the negotiations do not result in a mutually acceptable submission, the Grant Officer reserves the right to terminate the negotiations and decline to fund the application. We reserve the right not to fund any application related to this FOA.

VIII. POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Administrative Program Requirements

All grantees will be subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations, including the OMB Uniform Guidance, and the terms and conditions of the award.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

2. Religious Activities

Guidance from DOL on the effect of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act on recipients of DOL financial assistance is found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/grants/religious-freedom-restoration-act/guidance>.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

3. Other Legal Requirements

For a complete understanding of the application requirements on Lobbying or Fundraising with Federal Funds; Transparency Act; Safeguarding Data Including Personally Identifiable Information (PII); Record Retention; Use of Contracts and Subawards; and Grant Closeout, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

4. Other Administrative Standards and Provisions

Except as specifically provided in this FOA, our acceptance of an application and an award of federal funds to sponsor any program(s) does not provide a waiver of any grant requirements and/or procedures. For example, the OMB Uniform Guidance requires that an entity's procurement procedures ensure that all procurement transactions are conducted, as much as practical, to provide full and open competition. If an application identifies a specific entity to provide goods or services, the award does not provide the justification or basis to sole source the procurement (i.e., avoid competition).

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

DOL Disclaimer

If applicable, a standard ETA disclaimer needs to be on all products developed in whole or in part with grant funds.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

Intellectual Property Rights and Open Licensing

All work created using grant funds must be in a format that is readily accessible and available for open licensing to the public. This is required by 2 CFR Part 2900.13, and 2 CFR 200.315(d) to ensure DOL funds have as broad an impact as possible and to encourage innovation and the development of new learning materials.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

Credential Transparency

DOL requires that grantees make publicly available information about industry-recognized credentials using linked open data formats that support full transparency and interoperability. This ensures individuals, employers, educators, and training providers have access to the most complete, current and beneficial information about providers, programs credentials, and competencies supported by federal funds.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

5. Special Program Requirements

a. DOL Evaluation

As a condition of grant award, as per 2 CFR Part 200.301, grantees are required to participate in an evaluation, if undertaken by DOL.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.A Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

b. Performance Goals

Applicants will be held to outcomes provided in their application. Failure to meet outcomes may result in technical assistance, intervention by ETA, or may have a significant impact on future grants with ETA.

B. Reporting

You must meet DOL reporting requirements for quarterly financial and performance reports.

For a complete understanding of this application requirement, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section VIII.B Reporting.

C. Remedies for Noncompliance

DOL may terminate all or part of your award as described under 2 CFR 200.340 through 200.343 pursuant to the terms and conditions of your award, including, to the extent authorized by law:

- if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities; or
- in the case of a partial termination, if DOL determines that the remaining portion of the award will not accomplish the purposes for which the DOL award was made.

DOL may also impose specific conditions on your award or take other remedies as described by 2 CFR 200.339 through 200.343, if you do not comply with your award terms and conditions.

IX. RESOURCES

For additional information on A. Web-Based Resources; B. Industry Competency Models and Career Clusters; C. WorkforceGPS; D. SkillsCommons; E. DOL’s Clearinghouse for Evaluation and Research (CLEAR); and F. Data and Other Evidence Research Resources, see the [2026 Application Guide](#), Section IX External Resources.

X. OMB INFORMATION COLLECTION

OMB Information Collection No 1225-0086, Expires June 30, 2028.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Send comments about the burden estimated or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, to the attention of the Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N1301, Washington, D.C. 20210. Comments may also be emailed to: DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR GRANT APPLICATION TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND ONLY COMMENTS ABOUT THE BURDEN CAUSED BY THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND YOUR GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SPONSORING AGENCY AS SPECIFIED EARLIER IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

This information is being collected for the purpose of awarding a grant. DOL will use the information collected through this “Funding Opportunity Announcement” to ensure that grants are awarded to the applicants best suited to perform the functions of the grant. This information is required to be considered for this grant.

Signed June 10, 2026 in Washington, D.C. by:

Aiyana Pucci
Grant Officer, Employment and Training Administration

APPENDIX A

Definitions

Artificial Intelligence Literacy: As a foundational set of competencies that enable individuals to use and evaluate AI technologies responsibly, with a primary focus on generative AI, which is increasingly central to the modern workplace.

Business/Professional Services Sector: Business/Professional Services is generally defined by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 54 Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, and 55 Management of Companies and Enterprises. Applicants that propose to focus on the business/professional services sector must target occupations with demonstrated skills and wage progression opportunities along an identified career pathway. [1]

Career Pathways Program: A sequence of training activities that are designed to help an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster and are aligned with employer-validated standards and competencies because they result in work readiness for the target occupations upon completion. The activities may include academic training, occupational skills training, or both, and often result in credentials. Credentials that result from career pathways training are industry-recognized.

Career and Technical Education: Consists of educational activities that provide individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to prepare for specific careers in current or emerging professions. [2]

Customized Training: Training that is designed to meet the specific requirements of an employer (or group of employers) and is conducted with a commitment by the employer(s) to retain an individual upon successful completion of the training.

Digital Literacy Training: Instructional programs or courses designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use digital tools and technologies, often considered a pre-requisite to artificial intelligence literacy. Topics may include basic computer skills, internet navigation, online communication, safety and security, digital content creation, and collaboration tools.

Domestic Energy Production: The generation of energy resources within the United States, which includes fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal, as well as nuclear energy and renewable sources such as hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, and biofuels. [3]

Dislocated Worker: This term, defined at [WIOA Section 3\(15\)](#), includes individuals who were terminated, laid off, or received a notice of termination or layoff from employment. This term also includes displaced homemakers, military spouses, and/or individuals who were self-employed but are now unemployed.

Documentation of Commitment: A signed agreement, such as a Letter of Commitment, partnership agreement, or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), from all employer partners, at a minimum, that documents their specific commitment(s) to the project, including their roles, responsibilities, and contributions.

Health Care Sector: The health care sector comprises establishments providing health care and social assistance for individuals. The industries in this sector are arranged on a continuum starting with those establishments providing medical care exclusively, continuing with those providing health care and social assistance, and finally finishing with those providing only social assistance. [4]

Incumbent Worker: This term refers to individuals who are employed but need training to secure full-time employment, advance in their careers, or retain their current occupations. This term also includes low-wage and medium-wage workers who need to upgrade their skills to retain employment or advance in their careers, and workers who are currently working part-time but wish to work full-time.

Industry and Sector Partnership: A partnership of stakeholders to develop and implement proven or promising strategies for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers in the service area and expanding employment and career advancement opportunities for participants in in-demand industry sectors and/or occupations.

Information Technology Sector: Information technology is generally defined by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 518210: Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services and 513210: Software Publishers. [5]

Learning and Employment Records (LERs): Digital records that provide interoperable, portable credentials that document people's skills, educational experiences, and work histories. LERs document learning and experience wherever they occur, including in the workplace, through education and training, community activities, or military contexts. [6]

Leveraged Resources: Resources that come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, businesses, industry associations, labor organizations, community-based organizations, education and training providers, and/or federal, state, and local government programs and which can complement and support grant funding and activities.

Manufacturing Sector: Comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. [7]

New Entrants to the Workforce: This term refers to individuals who have never worked before or who have been out of the workforce for a long enough time to make it as if they are entering the workforce for the first time. For example, this may include, but is not limited to, the long-term unemployed and formerly incarcerated individuals. Also eligible, consistent with federal and state wage and employment laws, are youth who are enrolled in their junior or senior year of high school and who could be employed before or within six months after the end of the grant life cycle, and youth who have dropped out of school and are seeking their first full-time job.

Occupational Skills Training: An organized program of study that provides specific vocational skills that lead to proficiency in performing actual tasks and technical functions required for certain occupational fields at entry, intermediate, or advanced levels. Such training must:

- be outcome-oriented and focused on an occupational goal specified in the individual service strategy,
- be of sufficient duration to impart the skills needed to meet the occupational goal, and
- lead to the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential.

On-the-Job Training (OJT): OJT is defined at [WIOA](#) sec. 3(44). OJT is provided under a [contract](#) with an [employer](#) or [registered apprenticeship program](#) sponsor in the public, private non-profit, or private sector. Through the OJT [contract](#), occupational training is provided for the [WIOA participant](#) in exchange for the reimbursement, typically up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the [participant](#), for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and supervision related to the training. In limited circumstances, as provided in [WIOA](#) sec. 134(c)(3)(h) and [§ 680.730](#), the reimbursement may be up to 75 percent of the wage rate of the [participant](#).

Participant: An individual who is determined eligible for the grant and receives a grant-funded service after the determination of eligibility. A determination of eligibility to receive services or training alone does not qualify an individual to count as a grant participant.

Recognized Postsecondary Credential: Section 3(52) of WIOA defines “recognized postsecondary credential” as a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the State involved or Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. Recognized

postsecondary credentials are awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an industry/occupation (see TEGL 10-16, Change 1, Performance Accountability Guidance for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV Core Programs). These technical or industry/occupational skills generally are based on standards developed or endorsed by businesses or industry associations. Certificates awarded by LWDBs are not included in this definition, nor are work readiness certificates, because neither type of certificate is recognized industry-wide, nor do they document measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation. Recognized postsecondary credentials reflect technical or industry/occupational skills for the specific industry/occupation rather than general skills related to safety, hygiene, etc., even if such general skills certificates are broadly required to qualify for entry-level employment or advancement in employment. See [TEN 25-19](#) for more information.

Registered Apprenticeship program: A Registered Apprenticeship program is a registered program with the DOL Office of Apprenticeship or a DOL-recognized State Apprenticeship Agency as set out in 29 CFR Part 29.

Skilled Trades/Construction: Careers focused on skilled work that is essential to constructing, maintaining, and repairing buildings and infrastructure including carpentry; welding; masonry; electrical; plumbing; and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC-R). Skilled trades combine hands-on skills with technical knowledge to ensure functionality and safety in both new and existing infrastructure and structures. [8]

Supportive Services: Services provided to participants to address external barriers that prevent participation in, or successful completion of, education and training activities.

- Supportive services may include, but are not limited to:
 - Assistance with transportation, child or dependent care, or housing;
 - Tutoring;
 - Assistance with uniforms or other appropriate work attire and work-related tools, safety equipment, and other items;
 - Assistance with laptops or tablets, books, fees, school supplies, printing, and other necessary items for students enrolled in training, work-based learning, or other elements of the proposed grant project;
 - Payments and fees for employment and training-related applications, tests, professional dues, and certifications; or
 - Needs-related payments that enable an individual to participate in education and training activities.

Leveraged resources may be used to provide the actual supportive service (e.g., childcare), a voucher for the service (e.g., public transportation cards or tokens), or a stipend directly to the participant to pay for the service.

Talent Marketplace: A public digital system maintained by a State Workforce Agency that helps connect people's skills and credentials to education and job opportunities. It brings together learning and employment records (LERs), a credential registry, and tools that translate jobs and credentials into clear, skill-based information. Using artificial intelligence, the system

allows individuals and employers to securely share, understand, and use skills and achievements to support training and career advancement. [9]

Training Program: A defined set of instructional activities, including training and educational services and/or work-based learning, that results in the acquisition of skills, experience, or credentials when all activities are completed.

Training and Education Services: Services that may include, but are not limited to, classroom occupational training, distance learning, technology-based learning, or simulation training. All these strategies can be combined to accelerate credential attainment or program completion. Accelerated and competency-based education strategies can rapidly train participants efficiently and effectively for employment. They can include competency-based programs that give participants credit for skills they have already developed and allow participants to move through coursework based on mastery of skills or online programs. Accelerated learning strategies may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Competency-based education and assessment:** An outcomes-oriented approach in which student mastery of learning outcomes is assessed and certified through observational methods, such as task performance, exams, demonstrations, or other direct measures of proficiency. Credentials are awarded based on the mastery of specific competencies as demonstrated through performance-based assessments.
- **Credit for prior learning and prior learning assessments:** Often used interchangeably, these terms refer to a process for evaluating skills and knowledge acquired from prior coursework or outside the classroom (e.g., in the workplace) for the purpose of recognizing mastery against a given set of standards, competencies, or learning outcomes.
- **Integrated education and career-focused training programs that offer accelerated and contextualized education:** Instruction that embeds traditional academic content (e.g., reading, writing, mathematics) within technical coursework that is meaningful to students' daily lives and/or interests. This model often occurs in tandem with co-requisite or concurrent models of instruction, which involve simultaneous enrollment of students in remedial coursework and college-level coursework.
- **Stacked and latticed credentials:** Credentials that can be earned in sequence and build upon previously learned content as individuals progress along a career pathway or up a career ladder. They allow individuals the ability to build a portfolio of credentials as they transition from learning to work or to different and potentially higher-paying jobs.

Work-Based Learning: Training activity that includes sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real workplace settings or simulated environments. These interactions are designed to provide in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field and are aligned with educational curriculum and instruction. Work-based learning aims to bridge the gap between training and employment by ensuring that the skills and knowledge gained through training are directly applicable to the workplace.

Worker Mobility: The efforts that bring more individuals into the labor force and support their ability to advance by using technology, labor market data, and skills-based evaluation tools. In the WORC region, worker mobility includes prioritizing the needs of disconnected workers and addressing barriers to employment through rural community reengagement efforts. Successful

approaches embed skills-based assessments during intake to determine baseline competencies, validate prior experience, and guide participants toward training aligned with in-demand skills.

APPENDIX B

Performance Reporting Requirements and Performance Outcome Measures and Tracking Indicator Table

Grantees are required to submit two reports each quarter to document their program activities and participant performance. These two reports will be submitted using the Department’s Workforce Integrated Performance System (WIPS):

- **Quarterly Performance Report (QPR)**
 - A quantitative summary of cumulative participant outcomes
 - Compiled from an uploaded data file on all participants
- **Quarterly Narrative Report (QNR)**
 - A qualitative summary of grant activities for that reporting quarter

WORC 7 grantees will use the Demonstration Grant (“Demo”) Participant Individual Record Layout (PIRL) schema to report participant outcomes to the Department. The Demo PIRL schema is a comprehensive list of data elements that grantees will be required to collect and report on participants. Successful applicants for this grant must be prepared to collect sufficient data from sector partners to report on a subset of data elements from the Demo PIRL schema that will be provided after award. The data collected from partners must be consolidated into one master participant data file for your grant before submission to the Department. Grantees will use their own internal management information system or database to track and submit the data from employers through WIPS.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Demo PIRL schema, which may be viewed on [the DOL performance website](#). Successful applicants will receive additional guidance and training on performance reporting after award.

WORC 7 Performance Outcome Measures and Tracking Indicator	
Tracking Indicator	Numerical Targets (cumulative 3-year totals)
Total number of participants who received education/job training	
Outcome Measures	Numerical Targets (cumulative 3-year totals)
Total number of participants who completed education/job training activities	

Total number of participants who entered Registered Apprenticeship Programs	
Total number of participants who entered training-related employment after training program completion	

Tracking Indicator Definition:

Total number of participants who received education/job training activities:

- This tracking indicator is defined as the total number of participants who started a grant-funded education or training program.

Performance Outcome Measure Definitions:

Total number of participants who completed education/job training activities:

- This performance outcome measure is defined as the total number of participants who complete, during program participation, a grant-funded education or training program that leads to an industry-recognized credential.
- A participant’s education/training activities may be one training or a series of courses or activities. Program completion for a participant is when a participant has completed all the intended grant-funded training provided to the individual during the grant period of performance. Grantees must determine when a participant has completed all the intended grant-funded training services established for the individual during the grant period of performance based on the proposed program design.

Total number of participants who entered Registered Apprenticeship programs

- This performance outcome measure is defined as the total number of participants who entered a Registered Apprenticeship program. Participants included in this measure must be participating in the educational/instructional training and/or work-based learning component(s) of a Registered Apprenticeship program.

Total number of unemployed participants who entered training-related employment after training program completion

- This performance outcome measure refers to participants whose employment status at program entry is dislocated worker or new entrant to the workforce (see Section III.E). It includes participants that are placed into employment, after training program completion, that uses a substantial portion of the skills taught in the training received by the individual.
- Participants included in this measure must complete all the intended grant-funded training provided to the individual during the grant period of performance and enter new employment.

Please Note:

Applicants must provide targets in raw numbers; percentages or other types of data projections are not acceptable. Applicants must provide cumulative targets for the total grant period of performance.

Although applicants are not required to propose targets for the WIOA primary indicators of performance identified in Section III.C, they will be required to report participant data in alignment with these outcome measures.

APPENDIX C

Abstract Template

The applicant is strongly encouraged to use the below abstract template. If this template is not used, the submitted abstract must include the following information.

Category	Description
Lead Applicant Organization Name	Insert name of organization to be awarded the grant.
Project Title	Insert title of grant project.
Lead Entity Type:	Select from the following as defined in Section II.A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry or Employer Association • Labor-Management Organizations • Education/Training Provider • Workforce Development Entity • Native American Tribal Governments and Organizations • State, County, and Local Government
Total Funding (for the entire Period of Performance, not just one year):	Insert requested amount of Federal funding.
Leveraged Funding (if applicable)	Insert the amount of leveraged funding for the project.
Lead Applicant City/State:	Insert the location (city/state) of the lead applicant.
Required Partners:	List all required partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers: • Workforce Development Entity: • Education/Training Provider: • State Apprenticeship Agency: (if the SAA partnership is required for activities proposed in the grant application (such as developing and registering new apprenticeship programs))

Optional Partner(s):	List all optional partners.
Large-Scale Regional Area:	Describe the large-scale regional area that is the target service area and provide the specific counties/parishes within each state where any grant services will be provided.
Regional Commission:	Insert the regional commission that has purview over your proposed service area (ARC, DRA, or NBRC).
Target Industries and Occupations:	List all target industries and occupations that are part of your grant project.
Target Eligible Participant Category:	Identify whether you are serving dislocated workers, incumbent workers and/or new entrants to the workforce. Applicants may serve any or all of the three target categories.
Summary of Grant Purpose and Employment Training Activities Offered:	Provide 5–7 sentences that provide a high-level overview of your grant project.
Registered Apprenticeship program:	Insert the Registered Apprenticeship program or occupations targeted for the development of a Registered Apprenticeship program.
Credentials to Be Awarded:	Identify all industry-recognized credentials that are part of your training program.
Projected Number to Start Education/Training:	Insert the number of participants you plan to start in education/training activities. This number should match the tracking indicator number provided in the performance outcome table referenced in Appendix B.
Subrecipient Names and Roles:	Insert the names and roles of each subrecipient in the grant project.
Public Contact Information:	Provide your organization's contact information. Authorized Official: Phone: E-mail:

APPENDIX D

Documentation of Commitment Requirements

Applicants must include a **signed letter of commitment or signed agreement from each required partner** that documents their specific commitment(s) to the partnership. **At a minimum, applicants must provide signed documentation of commitment in their application from all employer partners.** Successful applicants will have up to 30 days from grant award to submit documentation of commitment for any remaining required partners. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit documentation of commitment from as many required partners as possible at the time of application submission.

Example language demonstrating commitment a required partner could include in the documentation:

“Specifically, we commit to this initiative in the following ways:

- Providing feedback on job requirements, necessary credentials, and training content,
- Offering work-based learning opportunities within the targeted industry to participants,
- Interviewing or hiring successful program participants for open positions, and
- Identifying recruitment and referral networks for participant outreach.”

General “letters of support” for the application that do not specify the role and responsibilities of the required partner are not acceptable.

Example language in a letter of support that lacks specific commitment to the project:

“Our organization supports this grant and encourages the Department of Labor to fund this application....”

Applications that are missing or have incomplete documentation from each required employer partner will not receive full points under the Sector Partnership and Industry Engagement section of the Project Narrative.

This documentation must be uploaded as an attachment to the application package and labeled “Partnership Commitment Documentation from Required Partners.”

APPENDIX E

End Notes

- [1] [Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services: NAICS 54](#); [Management of Companies and Enterprises: NAICS 55](#); [Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services: NAICS 56](#)
- [2] [Career and Technical Education](#)
- [3] [Domestic Energy Production](#)
- [4] [Health Care Sector](#)
- [5] Information Technology Sector: [NAICS 51820](#); [NAICS 513210](#)
- [6] [Learning and Employment Records](#)
- [7] [Manufacturing Sector](#)
- [8] [Skilled Trades/Construction](#)
- [9] [Talent Marketplace](#)