

The President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Overview

Technology and innovation, globalization, and the aging of America's workforce are continuously changing the nature of work and, indeed, the workplace. Businesses in high growth, high demand industries face increasing difficulties in finding workers with the right skills. As a result, community colleges are important providers for workers needing to develop, retool, refine, and broaden their skills. Because of their close connection to local labor markets, community colleges are well positioned to prepare workers for high demand occupations.

In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Budget, President Bush proposed Community-Based Job Training Grants to strengthen the role of community colleges in promoting the U.S. workforce's full potential. This competitive grant program builds on the High Growth Job Training Initiative, a national model for demand-driven workforce development implemented by strategic partnerships among the workforce investment system, employers, and community colleges. The primary purpose of Community-Based Job Training Grants is to build the capacity of community colleges to train workers in the skills required to succeed in high growth, high demand industries.

In October 2005, DOL awarded \$125 million in Community-Based Job Training Grants to 70 community colleges in 40 states.

The Department of Labor conducted a second competition for Community-Based Job Training Grants in the summer of 2006. It awarded 72 entities in 34 states with grants totaling \$125 million in December.

In his FY 2008 Budget, the President proposes an additional \$150 million for Community-Based Job Training Grants.

Grant Description

The grants will be used for the following activities:

- 1) Increasing the capacity of community colleges to provide training in a local high growth, high demand industry through activities such as the development of training curricula with local industry, hiring qualified faculty, arranging on-the-job experiences with industry, and using up-to-date equipment; and
- 2) Training new and experienced workers in identified high growth, high demand industries, with the aim of employing and/or increasing the retention and earnings of trained workers, while meeting the skill needs of businesses within targeted industries.

