

Improved Occupational Coding Quality Project Description

Available Funds: Up to \$100,000 is available for the integration/interface of improved occupational coding software, including up to \$25,000 per year, for two years, for technical assistance and integration/installation of software enhancements.

Purpose: To implement AutoCoder software, which was developed for USDOL to assist states in properly assigning occupational codes to individuals' records or job openings.

The accuracy of occupational codes assigned to UI claimants has often been poor; some state officials believe this is due to time pressures in the UI claims taking process and claims takers' limited knowledge and experience in assigning occupational codes. Assigning accurate occupational codes when new UI claims are filed can improve assessments of beneficiaries' need for reemployment services and result in quicker reemployment.

AutoCoder is a Web-based service that allows UI claims takers or call center representatives to enter a job title and/or description and quickly get one or more O*Net-SOC code matches from which to select. As a Web-based service, AutoCoder can also be integrated into current Web-based applications. AutoCoder allows individuals using an Internet UI Initial Claim application to enter a job title and/or description and be presented with one or more O*Net-SOC titles to select as their correct occupation. AutoCoder can also be implemented in a batch processing environment.

AutoCoder uses open-source products (MySQL as the database, Tomcat as the application server, Java as the development language) which are low in cost. The Web service interface can be easily called from any platform or programming language. Additional benefits include: it provides a unified approach to job coding, it provides better accuracy in coding, causes little impact to the claim taking or processing times, it can handle real time or batch processing, does not require the user to open a separate browser window or application, and matches are returned with confidence scoring.

The SBR funding may be obligated for integration of AutoCoder software and updates into state systems through September 30, 2008. States may install and maintain AutoCoder themselves, obtain technical assistance and support from the Information Technology Support Center (ITSC), or obtain support from some other vendor. When completing the SBR application, states should indicate whether ITSC technical support and maintenance are desired.

Questions about this project may be directed to Paul Bankes at Bankes.Paul@dol.gov.

SBR Outline for the Improved Occupational Coding Quality Project

This outline must be used by the state to request funds to implement the Improve Occupational Coding Quality Project.

Project Title: The project title should be Improved Occupational Coding Quality.

Project Contact: Please provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of person who can provide additional information about this specific project.

Total Funds Requested: Provide the total dollar amount requested for this project which cannot exceed \$100,000.

System Availability: Check all users who will have access to AutoCoder.

UI Claims Takers	_____
One-Stop Career Center/Employment Service Staff	_____
Claimants filing Internet Initial Claims	_____
Others (Please list)	_____

Project Timeline: Provide estimated dates below. If a timeline has been developed for the project it can be substituted for this information.

Begin system development	_____
System fully operational	_____

System Integration and Upgrades: The SWA has the option to secure services for system integration from several sources. Check the one that the SWA will utilize.

ITSC	_____
SWA will provide integration and upgrade services	_____
SWA will secure from another party	_____

Costs: Cost expenditures must match those on the SF 424A. Provide cost estimates for all proposed project expenditures.

Hardware, Software, Telecommunications Equipment - List all items that are to be purchased with this SBR.

Item	Number Requested	Cost Per Item	Total Cost
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Staff - The proposal should identify both one-time SWA staff needs (in excess of base staff) and contract staff needs. Staff needs should include the type of position (e.g., program analyst), the expected number of staff hours, and the projected hourly cost. SWAs should include information in the following table for all staff requests.

Position Title	# Hours	Cost Per Hour	Total
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Other - Identify other expenditures for implementation of AutoCoder software and include cost estimates.