

News Release



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Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao Awards \$3.78 Million to Place More than 1,600 Veterans in Jobs Under the Workforce Investment Act

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced that more than 1,600 veterans in 17 communities in 15 states will be placed in new jobs thanks to \$3.78 million in Department of Labor (DOL) grants awarded today. In addition, DOL expects another 600 veterans to receive employment and training services as a result of these grants, which are awarded under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

“The Workforce Investment Act has expanded the eligibility criteria for veterans who might not be covered by other programs,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. “This again demonstrates President Bush’s commitment and resolve to help America’s veterans who have so honorably served our nation.”

“We can now offer services to any honorably discharged veteran that served on active duty during a war or received a campaign or expedition badge, in addition to those with service-connected disabilities or who have recently separated or faced other significant barriers to employment.” said Frederico Juarbe Jr., DOL assistant secretary for veterans’ employment and training.

The grants, which are being awarded in California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming, make possible a range of services for veterans including: assessing job skills, career counseling, current labor-market information, classroom or on-the-job training, skills upgrading or retraining, and job-placement assistance. The applicants this year have been asked to focus their training efforts on career fields where the lack of a license or a certification has become a barrier to employment. The grants are administered by public agencies and nonprofit organizations that the Secretary of Labor determines have an understanding of veterans’ unemployment problems.

Authorized by Section 168 of the WIA, the grants are being awarded on a competitive basis by the department’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS). At the end of these six-month, first-year grants, VETS will award second-year funding to the grantees that meet or exceed the performance criteria set forth in their original award.

(Note to Editors: A list of the grantees is attached)

**December 2004 U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Workforce Investment Program Competition
Grantee List**

<p>United States Veterans Initiative 733 S. Hindry Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90301 Amount of Grant: \$250,000</p>	<p>Direct Way Station, Inc 230 West Patrick Street P.O. Box 3826 Frederick, MD 21705 Amount of Grant: \$371,565</p>
<p>Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry 7th and Forster Streets Harrisburg, PA 17120 Amount of Grant: \$374,687</p>	<p>Pro Action of Steuben Yates, Inc. 117 E. Steuben Street Bath, NY 14810 Amount of Grant: \$85,225</p>
<p>American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. 206 San Pedro, Suite 200 San Antonio, TX 78205-1104 Amount of Grant: \$375,000</p>	<p>Quad Area Community Action Agency, Inc. 45300 North Baptist Road Hammond, Louisiana 70401 Amount of Grant: \$375,000</p>
<p>Workforce Essentials 110 Main Street Clarksville, TN 37040 Amount of Grant: \$375,000</p>	<p>Massachusetts Veterans Inc. 69 Grove Street Worcester, MA 01605 Amount of Grant: \$75,243</p>
<p>Community Action Commission of Belmont County, Inc. 153 ½ West Main St. Clairsville, OH 43950 Amount of Grant: \$85,000</p>	<p>State of Maine Department of Labor 20 Union Street P.O. Box 259 Augusta, Maine 04332-0259 Amount of Grant: \$375,000</p>
<p>Wyoming Contractors Association 2220 N. Bryan Stock Trail P.O. Box 50568 Casper, Wyoming 82605 Amount of Grant \$173,900</p>	<p>Worknet Pinellas, Inc. 4525 140th Avenue, North Clearwater, FL 33762 Amount of Grant: \$321,000</p>
<p>United States Veterans Initiative 525 E. Bonanza Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101 Amount of Grant: \$125,000</p>	<p>Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services 600 Washington St. Suite 1100 Boston, MA -2111 Amount of Grant: \$115,154</p>
<p>The City of Worcester 44 Front Street, 7th Floor Worcester, MA 01608 Amount of Grant: \$53,750</p>	<p>Community Solutions for Clackamas County 112 11th Street Clackamas, OR 97045 Amount of Grant: \$155,656</p>
<p>Indiana Department of Workforce Development 110 Senate Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46204 Amount of Grant: \$100,000</p>	

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