

PY 2007 WIA Incentive Grant Award Summaries

Because Perkins III performance is no longer being collected, it was determined that WIA Title I and Title II (AEFLA) qualified States that exceeded their performance levels for only these two programs. PY08 funds are used to make these grant awards.

Florida

Contact: Ms. Zelda Rogers
Director, Adult Education
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Zelda.Rogers@fldoe.org
850-245-9906

Award Amount: \$933,944

Proposed Activities

Grant funds awarded to Florida will be divided between the FDOE and WFI. FDOE will receive \$900,000 and WFI, \$33,944 and will use the funds for the following activities:

- Postsecondary Transitions: To develop a systematic process for transitioning adult education students to postsecondary education
- Florida's "Talent Supply Chain" – To develop an alignment model for Florida's "Talent Supply Chain" linking workforce, education and economic development.

The FDOE will fund nine demonstration projects at \$100,000 each using a competitive RFP process. Each project will develop a system using research-based practices/strategies that promote and sustain postsecondary transition among Adult General Education (AGE) students. Based on results compiled and submitted to FDOE by agencies implementing the demonstration projects, the FDOE Practitioner's Task Force on Postsecondary Transition will review the systems developed and advise the DOE on statewide implementation.

The WFI will develop the "Talent Supply Chain" model and link it to business-driven key performance indicators. For this, they will develop a request for proposal for the initial scope of the project and then map to the key performance indicators. The third and final phase of system performance improvement will be an assessment of economic value added through career development in high growth, high value fields and the throughput measures for Florida's economy.

Illinois

Contact: Ray Parrack
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
620 East Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
Ray.Parrack@Illinois.gov
217-558-2420

Award Amount: \$1,000,916

Proposed Activities

Illinois will use WIA Title V Incentive Grant Funds to undertake three major sets of activities that build on previous incentive funded areas. This planned use of funds will be:

- **Innovative**—Illinois will use these funds to go beyond those state activities Illinois now conducts with regular and federal and state funds by promoting new program models and regional pipeline solutions. Illinois also will explore new approaches to using data to improve workforce pipeline performance.
- **Comprehensive and Coordinated**—Illinois will use these funds to develop and implement new models and solutions that integrate and coordinate how ICCB, ISBE and DCEO and other state and local partners use their funds to build regional pipeline solutions in key career cluster areas.
- **Targeted to System Performance**—Illinois will develop, pilot-test and evaluate the implementation of these new program models and pipeline solutions with the dual objectives of improving the performance of state systems of employment, training and education linking to critical career clusters and improving performance by expanding access to targeted populations. These efforts will focus on those areas that will have the most impact on system performance.

Indiana

Contact: Leslie Crist
Indiana Department of Workforce Development
10 North Senate Avenue, SE 302
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277
lcrist@dwd.in.gov
317-233-4010

Award Amount: \$869,269

Proposed Activities

The State of Indiana will utilize the PY2007 National Incentive Award to expand the Jobs for American's Graduates (JAG)-Indiana program, which will help provide low-income youth, with multiple barriers to employment, a pathway towards economic self-sufficiency. JAG is a nation-wide stay-in-school program for at-risk youth. Students enrolled in JAG receive credit toward high school graduation.

Indiana intends to optimize the national performance-award funding to enhance Indiana's JAG program by addition two program professionals to work in each regional workforce service area: A Community Outreach Coordinator and a Post-Secondary Transition Coordinator.

JAG-Indiana has grown more than 300 percent since its inception in 2006 and all JAG activities are authorized under the Title 1B of the Workforce Investment Act.

Iowa

Contact: Lori Adams
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Lori.Adams@iwd.iowa.gov
515-281-9339

Award Amount: \$779,429

Proposed Activities

This grant is innovative in linking adult literacy and workplace development for the purpose of integrating skills education. This initiative will expedite the process for educating displaced workers and adults with lower levels of literacy skills to assist them in securing employment. Several factors make the need for expansion of adult literacy services to broaden skills training for the workplace compelling. There is a growing demand to meet the needs of the recently displaced workers who are identified as not have the basic literacy skills needed to succeed in the present job market.

The Integration Service Delivery Model now being implemented by Iowa Workforce Development will use assessments to identify more potential students for adult literacy programs and workplace skill development and will serve as a referral agent for adult literacy programs.

In addition, the expansion of the National Career Readiness Certificate Program now being implemented in some areas by Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa's Community Colleges will increase retention, decrease the need for continuous training of new employees, and would provide employment promise to job-seeking Iowans. Finally, the present economic climate provides an opportunity for a strengthened relationship between education and workforce development.

Kansas

Contact: Dianne S. Glass
Director of Adult Education
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368
dglass@ksbor.org
785-296-7159

Award Amount: \$788,155

Proposed Activities

The following activities will be administered by the Board of Regents which will report on the use of the funds and ensure that all funds support allowable activities under the Workforce Investment Act. It is expected that there will be increased cooperation and collaboration on the state level to enhance the workforce development system in Kansas through:

- Increased collaboration between local one-stop centers' staffs and local adult education programs' staffs to ensure non-duplication of services. These activities will be supported by the incentive funds with \$150,000 divided among the five local Kansas Workforce Investment Boards and \$150,000 divided among the 30 Kansas adult education programs, based on the number of core outcomes achieved by each program.
- Creation of a new workforce investment program focusing on out-of-school youths and under educated adults. This new program will require the collaboration of adult education programs, postsecondary technical education providers, and local one-stop centers. The participant outcomes, described in detail on the following pages, include the following: improved basic skills, attainment of a high school diploma, attainment of Kansas WORKReady! Certificates and other industry credentials, increased transitions to postsecondary education and training, and development of technical skills. Individuals who were previously unemployed or underemployed will ultimately enter high-demand and high-skills jobs. These activities will be funded through a competitive grant process that will distribute the remaining \$488,155.

Kentucky

Contact: DeDe Conner
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
Department for Workforce Investment
Office of Employment & Training (OET)
500 Metro Street, 3rd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
Dede.conner@ky.gov
502-564-7456

Award Amount: \$851,748

Proposed Activities

The two main areas of emphasis for these funds are:

- Maintain the competitiveness and credibility of Kentucky's workforce training system; and
- Maximize the effectiveness of the Kentucky statewide data reporting system.

These activities will increase the portability of the employability credential and improve job placement, thereby increasing the statewide performance level and increase the statewide performance level by increasing staff efficiency to allow for greater dedication to client services.

Minnesota

Contact: Bonnie Elsey
MN Department of Employment & Economic Development
322 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
St. Paul, MN 55101
Bonnie.Elsey@mn.state.us
651-259-7563

Award Amount: \$801,528

Proposed Activities

The overall concept of the 2009 MN WIA Incentive Grant proposal supports and promotes the enhanced coordination and collaboration of Minnesota's Workforce Center,

post-secondary training and the ABE systems, an essential characteristic of the MN FasTRAC Initiative. There are four components which will directly support and enhance both the WIA Title I and WIA Title II programs that earned the WIA Incentive Grant and enhance other Minnesota employment and training efforts. They are:

- 1) MN will invest a portion of the incentive grant funds to support the four Workforce Service Areas that are selected to participate in the M.S.S.F. 1569 collaborative. This collaborative project plan and coordinate employment, training and education programs and services and will recommend those improvements to the state legislature.
- 2) Provide MN Regional Transitions Conveners for ABE programs to support each region to convene, facilitate, coordinate, and assist ABE providers with coordination activities and linkages, specifically regarding transitions to employment and higher education.
- 3) Create a FasTRAC training and Resource Institute; and
- 4) Develop an employment readiness credentialing system.

New York

Contact: Karen Coleman, Director
New York State Department of Labor
State Office Building Campus
Building #12, Room 450
Albany, New York 12240
Karen.coleman@labor.state.ny.us
518-457-0380

Award Amount: \$1,099,410

Proposed Activities

The DOL and SED will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to oversee activities under this grant. The Partnership activities include: improving communication and coordination among developers and users of occupational career information, helping to meet the occupational information needs of planners and managers of vocational education and job training programs and individual career making decisions, development of career education instructional materials for career educators and students, improving of career information delivery systems, enhancement of web-based information on training and careers, dissemination of labor market information, training on career and education exploration resources, helping students and adults make the best possible decisions about education, training and career development, helping learners identify their skills and interest, planning education and training pathways, providing guides and curricula that help teachers and counselors incorporate career development in a high-quality academic program, emphasizing the connection between academic work and future career options, and helping learners of all ages to focus on achievement.

Key initiatives to be implemented under this partnership will include:

- Piloting a curriculum to prepare job seekers to pass the national Work Readiness Credential;
- Enhancing GED preparation resources in 17 Literacy Zones;
- Enhancing the assessment functions in CareerZone and JobZone;
- Developing and distributing a CD-ROM version of CareerZone/JobZone for use with incarcerated offenders;
- Creating a New York State Career Guide;
- Training of adult education teachers on new curricula to help those with learning disabilities; and
- Building volunteer program linkages in Literacy Zones.

North Carolina

Contact: Mr. Mical McFarland
North Carolina Department of Commerce
313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 120
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316
mmcfarland@nccommerce.com
919-329-5243

Award Amount: \$876,709

Proposed Activities

North Carolina plans to provide the following services and training initiatives with these resources:

1. North Carolina will use a portion of these resources to assist the dislocated workers to identify skill levels and to chart paths for training in order to increase their skills. Through the use of the statewide WIA initiative of the North Carolina Career Readiness Certification, dislocated workers will be able to obtain these foundational skills and to prove to employers that they have the necessary skills in order to do the job.
2. A portion of these resources will be used to support the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act programs by providing two innovative program designs to assist the Basic Skills programs. The North Carolina Community College System will use \$400,000 in incentive funding to award grants to local Basic Skills/literacy programs through a request for proposal process to conduct innovative transition programs for students that lead to postsecondary education and training and/or jobs, and to conduct mini-research projects to determine if research-based methods and materials for

these Basic Skills/literacy programs increase federal educational functioning levels for students more than traditional methods and materials such as workbooks in open-entry/open-exit labs. Grantees will be selected through a competitive process and monitored throughout the year by Basic Skills staff. Grantees will receive up to \$20,000 each to experiment with innovative programs others have designed or their own innovative designs. Currently, the state provides many training opportunities for local program staff which show how to use effective educational practices based on research, but local programs do not have the resources to implement on a large scale or study the effectiveness of such practices. These grants will allow local programs to experiment with practices they select, and then evaluate the experiment for effectiveness.

3. A portion of the funds will be used in partnership with the NCCCS office of Innovation and Biotechnology to develop and coordinate a system-wide Build Green initiative. The fundamental goal of this initiative is to develop and deliver business growth and enhancement programs, worker training curricula and a career path for green and energy industry workers. A primary component of this initiative is to help community colleges statewide develop or enhance existing programs to help their local under-employed, displaced, or low income populations find jobs now. Additionally, the System will identify several regional training hubs or community colleges which can serve to mentor other colleges and act as hands-on training sites. Hubs will be located in regions (East, Piedmont, RTP, and West) across the state.

Ohio

Contact: Ms. Denise Pottmeyer
The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents
30 E. Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
dpottmeyer@regents.state.oh.us
614-466-5015

Award Amount: \$998,255

Proposed Activities

1. ABLE, as a new component within the University System of Ohio, will utilize the WIA Incentive Grant in partnership with adult career-technical programs and community colleges to deliver the following outcomes:
 - Increase the number of adults accessing postsecondary education and training;
 - Support the capacity of ABLE programs to better serve adults with postsecondary and employment goals through training and resource development;

- Align education systems, policies and processes to optimize implementation and institutionalization of career pathways;
 - Expand implementation of a Stackable Certificate Program through the issuance of pre-college and industry recognized certificates; and
 - Pilot new adult concurrent enrollment policy.
2. Expansion of adult career-technical to college transfer (CT2) will continue for existing and new apprenticeship programs.
 3. The ABLELink data system will be enhanced to collect data in support of the new aligned system for the University System of Ohio, including an enhancement for professional development and ABLE practitioners' portfolio.

South Dakota

Contact: Mr. Bill Molseed
South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governor's Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
Bill.molseed@state.sd.us
605-773-5017

Award Amount: \$761,088

Proposed Activities

South Dakota will utilize Incentive funds to focus on several state initiatives. Grant funds will be used to encourage collaboration at the state and local levels. The outcome of these activities will create an expansion of capacity which is sustainable. The true beneficiaries of these activities are individual job seekers and the business community.

These planned activities are aligned with state and local workforce development strategies. Our goal is to improve system performance, enhance the quality of service, and link these strategies to high-growth industries as identified in the Governor's Workforce 2025 Initiative.

WIA Title I: \$380,544: Workforce Investment Systems Incentive Funds Proposed Projects 2009-2011

- Conduct Two Professional Development Trainings, one in the fall of 2009 and one in the fall of 2010.
- Purpose: Bring DOL and Workforce 2025 partners together including the Department of Education, Board of Regents, Governor's Office of Economic Development, WIA, AEL, Reemployment, SNAP, TANF, and Rehabilitation Services for regional trainings in the spring of 2010 and 2011.

- Assist in the introduction and education of businesses within SD about the National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC).
- Arrange for up to 10 camps for the Build Dakota occupations within Construction, Manufacturing and Energy Industries. Partner with the Department of Education, Board of Regents, Governor's Office of Economic Development and business/industry associations to provide these camps.
- Assist with upgrade of AEL curriculum and materials for GED preparation materials.
- Assist with developing a transitional bridge program for students moving from AEL to technical institutes with emphasis on the emerging Build Dakota industries and 'green' jobs.
- Assist in providing Career Cruising to WIA participants
- Mini Grants available to local DOL offices
- Promotional Video relating to Health Care Occupations. Videos

Adult Education and Literacy Incentive Funds Proposed Projects 2009-2011

- Upgrade of AEL curriculum and materials for GED Preparation materials and Adult Basic Education levels for public and Correctional sites
- Provide a Leadership Academy through the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC).
- Set up and launch a Distance Learning project which providing in-class and at-a-distance learning which follows the guidance given by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The policy has been written and is ready to implement.
- Expand the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) to Adult Education students.
- Dissemination of effective AEL demonstration grants currently being piloted by AEL programs across the state to all other programs.
- Contract and develop a transitional bridge program for students moving from AEL to Technical Institutes.
- Promotion and marketing new image of adult education serving adults as the state implements the age 18 mandatory attendance requirement.
- LACES training in full day face-to-face workshops to give greater foundation in how LACES works with data, identifies lists for follow-up, and data analysis especially in looking for errors in the tables for NRS.