

PY 2008 WIA 503 Incentive Awards State Application Summaries

Because Perkins III performance is no longer being collected, it was determined that states that exceeded their WIA Title I and Title II (AEFLA) performance goals can receive PY008 awards. PY09 funds are used to make these grant awards.

Colorado

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Award Amount: \$870,920

Proposed Activities

The Colorado Department of Education proposes utilizing incentive grant funds to increase postsecondary and workforce readiness for students outside of the educational mainstream. This will be accomplished by supporting three tiers of services: 1) Dropout Intervention Services, to include postsecondary transition planning, 2) Dropout Outreach and Recovery Services with a focus on student engagement and school completion; and, 3) Universal Support Services to include resources and referrals for students and families and technical assistance and training for community service providers and school personnel. The approach is based on enhancing and expanding best practices and effective strategies while working collaboratively with partner programs to ensure optimal use of resources.

Key partners in this effort include school districts, current AEFLA funded sites, community colleges, workforce centers, non-profit organizations and community members. The program will be implemented over two years and will be sustained through the increase in the capacity of school districts and AEFLA sites to access state grants and per pupil revenue funding.

Connecticut

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Award Amount: \$844,169

Proposed Activities

The Connecticut Department of Education in conjunction with the Connecticut State University System, Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium, and the Department of Labor will utilize the incentive grant award for the Developing Tomorrow's Professionals program (DTP). The DTP is designed to create, improve and sustain a student approach to learning, college matriculation and career potentialities.

Furthermore, the DTP is a carefully constructed program of training, assessment and support services designed to address the needs of young men of color (Black and Latino), providing year-round overlapping mentoring, academic skill set training, university linkage, and technology training as it relates to academic performance and assessment. With the single parent domestic setting increasing annually, especially in Connecticut's urban cities and towns, we must embrace the consequences of those environments and how they impact the growth and development of our urban youth.

All activities will be crafted to reflect and develop a professional demeanor and an improved academic achievement level for each student, leading to matriculation to a four year college.

Iowa

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Award Amount: \$806,297

Proposed Activities

Iowa's plan focuses on integrating adult literacy skills and workplace skills within the context of Iowa's Adult Literacy program model. The expectation is that by integrating basic skill training with employment skill training and opportunities, Iowa's adult literacy participants will be better prepared for work or to seek post secondary education and build their capacity to meet the labor market demands of the 21st century.

Iowa plans to provide these services through The Reengagement Center and hopes to serve 800 clients between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011. The central Iowa Reengagement Center opened in August, 2009 and targeted Central Iowa high school drop-outs ages 16 and up. This Reengagement Center is in a welcoming, non-traditional setting in a very accessible location in Des Moines. Reengagement staff members have

significant experience working in education and human services with clients having multiple barriers to achieving educational success through traditional paths. By June 30, 2011, the center projects to have at least 110 of the 800 clients complete their GED credential, along with 80 clients who have completed at least one of the required five GED tests.

Funding comes from the United Way and Central Iowa Works in addition to the WIA incentive grant.

Illinois

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Award Amount: \$1,238,005

Proposed Activities:

The incentive award will enable Illinois to continue to align state, regional and local linkages between economic development, workforce development, and education. Our goals are to provide a trained, reliable pipeline of job seekers in critical skill shortage occupations that pay high wages and to explore new approaches for targeted populations, including those with literacy and language barriers, non-traditional populations formerly incarcerated individuals, disadvantaged adults and youth, and people with disabilities.

The state will build from the use of incentive funds from the previous years. This planned use of funds will be:

- **Innovative-** Illinois will use these funds to go beyond those state activities that Illinois now conducts with regular federal and state funds by promoting new sector/career cluster 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 comprehensive pipelines solutions in key career cluster areas.
- **Targeted to System Performance**—Illinois will develop, pilot-test and evaluate the implementation of these new sector/cluster 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 representing “high-growth industries” including those with significant

concentrations of “green occupations” 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.

Kentucky

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Award Amount: \$964,785

Proposed Activities

Kentucky has planned to use their incentive funds (1) to strengthen the career counseling and transition services for customers in the adult education and secondary vocational technical programs to postsecondary options and the workforce development system; and (2) Increase the outreach and awareness of Kentucky’s workforce development system and its partners during this economic downturn. These initiatives meet the grant criteria for projects which are innovative, comprehensive and coordinated, and targeted to improving system performance.

Both projects will be coordinated with other programs and projects funded through ARRA stimulus dollars:

- Career counseling and transition services will support enhanced individual employment plans in high growth occupations that will be issued to tap training resources made available through ARRA.
- A communications and outreach strategy will ensure that low-skilled youth, adults and dislocated workers in the Commonwealth are informed and can take advantage of training resources and services available via ARRA funding.

The projects selected will afford Kentucky the opportunity to use these funds for one-time, high-impact, statewide improvements to our workforce development system. Through the use of these funds, we anticipate that significant short-term actions will produce long-term benefits to our workforce development system.

Minnesota

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Award Amount: \$881,593

Proposed Activities:

The proposed 2010 WIA incentive grant will address Minnesota WIA Tile I and II efforts by addressing two interrelated components that strengthen and build capacity for the Minnesota FastTRAC initiative. These two components are:

- Regional ABE – Workforce Partnership Projects – Ten Regional Transition Coordinators (RTC’s) will develop ABE client service projects in required collaboration with their local WorkForce Centers to address three or more areas of need of unemployed and underemployed individuals.
- FastTRAC Support and Enhancement—Add to the pool of FastTRAC implementation grant funds for the FY2011 program year. This grant pool already has multiple contributors including ABE, DEED, MNSCU (projected), Greater Twin Cities United Way and possible others. Additionally, these funds will continue the FastTRAC efforts to align data system activities to track clients from ABE into and through the MnSCU system and between the ABE system and the Workforce Development System including co-enrolled ABE and WIA clients. These funds will be used to develop tracking methodologies and provide specific, adult-client focused direction to the Longitudinal Data System effort that is being proposed between MDE and MNSCU, with DEED involvement.

Missouri

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Award Amount: \$988,456

Proposed Activities

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Economic Development identified incentive grant activities that are comprehensive, coordinated, and targeted at improving system performance. Additionally, the incentive funds will be

used for programs services, and activities that support education, workforce development and economic development.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is continuing efforts toward the U.S. Department of Education Race to the Top reform initiative. With a year of intense planning, data-gathering and writing, nearly 350 Missouri school districts have declared their initial interest in participating in the challenge. The plan focuses on creating practical tools and policies that will strengthen Missouri's schools, which Includes:

- Creating a model curriculum, including all the curricular and instructional tools that districts, schools and teachers need;
- Providing professional development to support the model curriculum;
- Identifying best practices in instruction, turnaround strategies and closing achievement gaps;
- Developing state models for educator evaluation;
- Developing a Missouri-specific model for providing turnaround assistance for struggling districts and schools; and
- Developing a model for “braided” systems of support for children and families.
- Action steps include, but are not limited to:
- Developing approaches to public engagement, plan development and implementation;
- Establishing and sustain communication channels that encourage transparency and build ownership;
- Convening improvement teams to develop plan strategies;
- Developing benchmarks and dashboard to measure progress; and
- Convening communications teams for plan dissemination and deployment.

Nebraska

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Award Amount: \$784,251

Proposed Activities

Nebraska intends to implement distant learning capabilities to adult and youth participants with the federal incentive grant award based on PY 2008 performance. This project will compliment the major objectives set forth in the WIA 2010 Strategic Plan

Modification as well at the AEFLA and Perkins IV State Plans. In particular, the Governor has expressed four goals in the PY 2010 WIA Strategic Plan Modification which these projects support;

- *Maintain a dynamic, demand-driven workforce development system focusing on high-growth, high-demand industries within a regional development context;*
- *Increase the integration of services to employers and job seekers by multiple public and private partners;*
- *Recognize the need to meet the changing long and short-term needs of businesses and individuals with a coordinated, efficient, and less bureaucratic delivery system; and*
- *Provide the knowledge, skills, and resources for learning, earning, and living.*

The project outlined in this application will be highly collaborative in nature with Adult Basic Education programs and staff, WIA programs and One Stop Career Center staff and Perkins IV staff and secondary and post secondary schools. A project manager will be hired to coordinate the project with sponsoring state agencies and other partner organizations. The project manager will host joint planning sessions among the partners, formulate research design and implementation plans, and focus on improving the collaboration and integrated service design between partner programs to benefit service to clients.

New York

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Award Amount: \$1,405,909

Proposed Activities

To oversee last year's grant activities, a partnership was developed between SED and DOL. Partnership activities have and will continue to include: improving communication and coordination among developers and users of occupations and 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, improvement 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 interests, planning education and training pathways, providing guides and curricula that help teachers and counselors incorporate career development into 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.

Tennessee

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Award Amount: \$976,065

Proposed Activities:

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Development will utilize its Program Year 2008 incentive award to continue to position Tennessee as the leader in the development of workforce and education talent and expand upon innovative workforce programs, as well as foster emerging industries in the economic region.

The incentive funds will be distributed to Tennessee's WIA Title I agency (\$676,065), the AEFLA Title II agency (\$114,530) and the Perkins IV agency (\$184,470). The impact of the incentive funds will go beyond these three partners to encompass a layoff aversion project utilizing Dun and Bradstreet's Strategic Compass technology in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD); as well as significant improvements to economic growth and employment opportunities in science and technology throughout the Tennessee Scholars Program. Incentive funds also will be used to support the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives with integration being the focus.