

# PY 2009 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 PY009 awards. PY2010 funds are used to make these grant awards.*

## Arizona

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**Award Amount: \$3,000,000**

### Proposed Activities

The state will divide the awarded incentive funding equally between three areas of focus: the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Adult Education, and Career and Technical Education.

*WIA:* A promising innovation for Arizona's career pathway is a new initiative supported by industry to build a skilled and knowledgeable workforce for Arizona's emerging green manufacturing sector. The vision of Arizona's Green Manufacturing Talent Development (AzGMTD) initiative is to create a statewide sustainable formal path for workers to enter the green manufacturing field resulting in a steady flow of top quality candidates to the local manufacturing community.

*Adult Education:* Adult Education Services (AES) identified the critical need for the Arizona Workforce Connection System (AWCS) to offer college and career training pathways for WIA Title II eligible adults. It is the state's goal to offer contextualized instruction and become a leader in the integration of Adult Education and workforce development. This initiative is a continuation of funds from previous incentive grants and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

*Career and Technical Education:* The Career and Technical Education (CTE) project will support economic development and provide the pipeline for highly qualified employees for business and industry in Arizona. This web-based system will assess industry-based technical skills along with workplace standards and provide them with a certificate and transcript that is both honored and promoted by the heads of business and industry.

## Minnesota

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**Award Amount: \$3,000,000**

### Proposed Activities

The state's incentive activities and funding will be divided equally into two separate projects – Regional Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Workforce Development Partnership Projects and the Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathway Alliance.

*Regional ABE and Workforce Development Partnership Projects:* Incentive funds will be provided to ten ABE Regional Transition Coordinators (RTCs) and all 16 Workforce Service Areas (WSAs) to identify access, opportunity, and success in education and training programs for low-wage, educationally-underprepared adults. The focus is to meet President Obama's goal of increasing postsecondary degrees and/or industry-recognized certificates and credentials by 2020.

*Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathway Alliance:* Incentive funds will be used to develop and implement business and policy strategies to sustain and grow adult career pathway programming throughout Minnesota. The FastTRAC Initiative integrates leadership and staff from several entities including: state agencies, the Governor's Workforce Development Council, private industries, local education/workforce center providers, and community/faith-based organizations.

## North Dakota

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**Award Amount: \$1,210,964**

### Proposed Activities

The state is anticipating using the WIA incentive funds for several smaller projects which are:

- Technology Training for Instructors and Students: Project involves technology training for instructors and students; workplace readiness to utilize technology; basic computer and typing skills for post secondary readiness
- English Language Learners: Project involves expanding the ELL program to give additional assistance to English language learners in the Adult Learning Center
- Read-Right; Career Planning: The Read Right project expands to assist more adult education students who need the services in order to obtain their GEDs, gain employment, learn or improve their English , improve their employment opportunities, or enter post secondary training
- Career Planning Career Technical Education: This project would improve the system by coordinating the planning tools and building a greater awareness of the effectiveness of the complete network of resources available.
- MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS): This project establishes an educational outreach program designed to infuse MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS) content into North Dakota secondary schools.
- ALC GED Computers: Project involves coordination with Career and Technical Education Centers for students to build computers for ALC use as they transition to computer based GED exam
- Data Mgt System; Computer Soft Skills Training: Project offsets costs for implementation of a new statewide web-based student data collection system (LACES – Literacy Adult and Community Education System, a national product currently used by eleven (11) other states for Adult Education reporting).
- Adaptive Technology: Adaptive Technology helps individuals with physical disabilities such as limitations to vision, hearing, and mobility use regular versions of products
- TORQ: TORQ™, the Transferable Occupation Relationship Quotient, is an analytical tool developed by Workforce Associates, Inc. that guides workers to new jobs or training programs based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired in previous jobs. TORQ™ reduces the complexity of transferring from one occupation to another as TORQ™ is one single convenient measurement that defines “transferability” between occupations.
- Increased Instruction/ Career Advising Time: Project expands instruction and career advising at two locations allowing them to provide the instruction onsite for individuals who cannot leave their treatment center, or to reduce long distance travel.
- English Language Learners: Project expands career and post-secondary prep skills to English Language Learner (ELL) students and teaches the basic concepts and skills necessary for acquiring and maintaining a job.
- Work Prep Course: Development and provision of a 16-day “train to place” course that will provide individuals with the confidence, soft skills, knowledge, and skill base that is required for employment.

## Texas

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**Award Amount: \$3,000,000**

### **Proposed Activities:**

The state will evenly distribute the WIA Incentive funds to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

*TEA:* The WIA Incentive Grant will provide resources to advance the Texas adult education program structure and align it with post secondary efforts by creating and implementing tools, support, and professional development for building student pathways to college and career readiness. The WIA Incentive Grant will support the following objectives: provide college and career readiness curriculum to all teachers and create a cadre of trainers to facilitate the teacher training and its expansion to all adult education programs; require each local program to develop and plan for implementing college and career readiness into their local program; create resources and professional development for regional and local transition specialists; and introduce contextualization tools at the local level to be used both in specific occupations and academics.

*TWC:* TWC will work with other state agencies and community colleges to develop a model to transfer military experience and training from all service branches for credit toward degrees and/or employment in a high demand occupation. Each of the determined seven community colleges will participate in the College Credit for Heroes project. Projects will provide models for awarding college credit by evaluating military training, including testing and prior learning assessments that other Texas colleges may replicate. There will also be a focus on allied health careers and a partnership with the Military Education Training Center (METC) in San Antonio to provide current active duty service members with an accelerated degree plan.