

# Advancing Colorado's Highly Skilled Workforce

## H-1B

Technical Skills Training Grant  
*1st Quarter 2014 Update*



COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

COLORADO IS GROWING SOME OF ITS KEY INDUSTRIES BY PROVIDING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE TO INTERMEDIATE, HIGHLY-SKILLED INCUMBENT WORKERS AND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED WORKERS. TRAINING IS ENABLED THROUGH A \$5,000,000 GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IS FOCUSED ON OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES WHERE H-1B VISAS ARE USED TO HIRE FOREIGN WORKERS.

### Occupations in these Industries



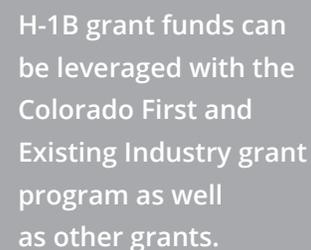
## Grant Benefits

The grant provides funding for **up to 100% of the tuition costs** for eligible training. Participating businesses must match grant funds by providing paid time for employees to participate in the training.

- Training providers can be selected by the employer.
- Education and training can be “For-Credit” or “Non-Credit”, but all participants must receive a degree, credential or certificate at the conclusion.
- Training and education for incumbent workers will provide a clear pathway for individuals to retain their position, advance into a new position, or receive a raise.

## Who We’ve Helped

1,875 participants have been served through 03/31/14  
1,418 completed education/job training activities and received credentials

H-1B grant funds can be leveraged with the Colorado First and Existing Industry grant program as well as other grants.

## Participating Workforce Centers

- Arapahoe/Douglas Works!
- Workforce Boulder County
- Denver Workforce Center
- Larimer County Workforce Center
- Mesa County Workforce Center
- Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- Pueblo Workforce Center
- Employment Services of Weld County

## Key Partners

- Industry Advisory Council
- Colorado Workforce Development Council
- Other State Agencies
- Business & Industry Associations
- Partner Employers
- Education Partners
  - Colorado Community College System
  - University of Denver - Colorado Women’s College

## Success Stories

The Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) continues their outreach to long-term unemployed individuals, utilizing co-enrollments to further maximize training funds. PPWFC identified an urgent need for skilled Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programmers through an employment needs analysis for manufacturing employers in order to sustain and grow

their businesses. PPWFC convened a group of manufacturers and community partners to discuss ways to fill this need. Three manufacturers, JPM Prototype, Magnum Tool, and Springs Fabrication, agreed to assist in providing input on the development of a CNC training program and would have the opportunity to hire the candidates for their facility.

PPWFC contracted with Pueblo Community College for the use of their mobile training lab and a trainer for the delivery of CNC Programmer training. Five individuals were co-enrolled in the Dislocated Worker Program (DW) and H-1B to receive the training. These same individuals were then enrolled in On-the-Job Training National Emergency Grant (NEG-OJT) to subsidize their wages. This provided the five participants with both skill training and the opportunity to apply those skills on the job. The 7 week-long training program had 4 graduates.

## **Colorado Workforce Development Council – Sector Summit II**

The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) hosted their second sector partnership summit, Sector Summit II, which took place on May 20th and 21st at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The well attended conference provided attendees with numerous opportunities to learn and participate through plenary and breakout sessions, and interactive panels.

Sectors Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline emphasized the continuing effort to create and grow career pathways in Colorado to meet the talent needs in the private sector. A career pathway is a series of connected education and training programs, work experiences, and student support services that enable individuals to secure a job or advance in a demand industry or occupation. Breakout sessions were offered on the basics of career pathways, how they intersect and are a critical component of sector partnerships.

The Summit also provided attendees with another opportunity to engage more deeply in regional sector partnerships by bringing together many of the same partners from last year's summit, but with the addition of education partners. The regional partnerships met twice during the two day summit to re-connect, re-energize, and commit to next steps, as well as more fully integrate education colleagues in their sector partnerships.

## H-1B Ready to Work Partnership Grant Application

On February 19, 2014 the United States Department of Labor announced the H-1B Ready to Work Partnership grant opportunity. The Department of Labor (DOL) made available approximately \$150 million for 20-30 individual grants ranging from \$3 million to \$10 million per grant. The closing date for the Ready to Work grant is June 19, 2014. It is a four year grant with an expected start date of October 1, 2014.

The purpose of the grant is to provide long-term unemployed workers with individualized counseling, training and supportive and specialized services leading to rapid employment in occupations and industries for which employers use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers.

Shortly after the announcement, the Colorado Urban Workforce Alliance (CUWA) and the Denver Office of Economic Development/Workforce Development reached out to workforce regions across the state, institutions of higher education, employers, and training providers to gauge their interest in participating on this grant. Following extensive research and discussion with potential partners, Denver as the lead applicant, has submitted the Technology Employment in Colorado Partnership (TEC-P) project grant application. The TEC-P project will build on the current industry sector partnerships in information technology (IT) and advanced manufacturing (AM).

### Participating workforce regions:

- Arapahoe/Douglas Works!
- Workforce Boulder County
- Denver Office of Economic Development/Workforce Development (lead)
- American Job Center serving Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin counties
- Larimer County Workforce Center
- Mesa County Workforce Center



**Regional Partner:**

- Colorado Urban Workforce Alliance (CUWA)

**Education partners:**

- Colorado Community College System
- Community College of Aurora
- Community College of Denver
- Front Range Community College
- Red Rocks Community College
- Western Colorado Community College

**Statewide industry partners:**

- Colorado Technology Association
- Manufacturer’s Edge (formerly CAMT)
- Western Colorado Manufacturing Alliance

No date has been provided by the U.S. DOL for grantee selections, though the expected start date is October 1, 2014.

**Get Involved**

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