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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

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Category: Discretionary Grant Funding
Subject#: Colorado SECTORS Implementation Grants: Solicitation for Grant Applications
Source: Federal/State
Revise/Replace: N/A
Contact: Workforce Development Programs Director
Distribution: Managers, Workforce Development Staff, Workforce Region Directors, Program and Fiscal
Colorado One-Stop System Policy Guidance Letter#: 10-04-WIA
Date: March 3, 2010

I. REFERENCE(S):

Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998; Final Rules – 20 CFR Parts 665.300-340, et al., published at 65 Fed. Reg. 49416-17 (August 11, 2000); TEGL No. 1-09 regarding §1512 Reporting Requirements; PY08 Grant Agreement Supplemental Provisions for Contracts, Grants, and Purchase Orders Using Funds Provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; PGL 08-06-WIA WIA and WP Discretionary Grant Quarterly Reporting.

II. PURPOSE:

To provide solicitation for grant applications (SGA) guidelines for Colorado SECTORS Implementation Grants. The intent of this PGL is to make funding available to workforce regions to launch regional sector initiatives. Applications for funding must be received by June 1, 2010.

III. BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) sets aside discretionary funding to be used for special initiatives relevant to workforce and labor market conditions that exist in the state. The Act specifically states that funds available under this section can be used for activities such as exemplary programs, research and demonstration efforts, and special projects to assist local areas in carrying out local employment and training activities.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) and the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) are making WIA funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 available for discretionary grants to conduct start-up efforts necessary to launch sector-based initiatives. Sector initiatives are industry-specific, regional partnerships that address employers' needs for skilled workers, and workers' needs for good jobs. Sector initiatives focus intensively on

the workforce needs of a specific industry at the regional level over a sustained period, often concentrating on specific occupations, and always engaging multiple employers to analyze industry needs and design customized solutions.

Sector partnerships involve employers, educators and training providers, the public workforce development system, economic development organizations, and other community stakeholders. These partnerships work closely together to identify the workforce needs and solutions of one industry, allowing all stakeholders to streamline their efforts and leverage resources. Sector strategies work from the premise that in any region there are certain industries that are powerful economic drivers. Targeting and leveraging public and private investments to support the growth and health of these sectors allows local and state policy makers to prioritize and grow their region’s important industries while supporting citizens’ needs for good jobs.

IV: POLICY/ACTION:

Workforce regions are the eligible applicant to submit proposals that include the following required components:

- Cover/Signature Sheet
- Proposal Narrative
- Work Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Required Partners
- Budget Worksheet and Narrative
- Cumulative Quarterly Expenditure Projections

There is a 10% non-governmental matching funds requirement for this application process. Interested workforce regions are responsible for reviewing the full application requirements included in the attached SGA.

The following is the timeline for applying for a Colorado SECTORS Implementation Grant:

Application Guidelines Available	March 1, 2010
Grant Application Submission Deadline	June 1, 2010 – 5:00 p.m.
Grants Announced	July 1, 2010
Award Date	August 1, 2010
Quarterly Reports Due	30 days after the end of each Quarter
Grants Must Be Expended By	December 31, 2012

Up to \$225,000 is available to each super-region of two or more Workforce Regions or sub-regions of the Rural Consortium, and up to \$425,000 is available to each super-region of three or more Workforce Regions or sub-regions of the Rural Consortium. The total number of grants to be awarded has not been determined.

Grantees will be required to follow the discretionary grant reporting requirements outlined in PGL 08-06-WIA and the reporting and evaluation requirements in PGL 10-02-WIA. These grants are subject to ARRA §1512 and §1554 supplemental provisions for reporting and procurement.

V. IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

Upon receipt of this Program Guidance Letter.

VI. INQUIRIES:

Please direct all inquiries in writing to Marie Valenzuela at Workforce Development Programs at marie.valenzuela@state.co.us.

Attachments:

Colorado SECTORS Implementation Grants – Solicitation for Grant Applications

Attachment A – Cover/Signature Sheet

Attachment B – Evaluation Framework

Attachment C – Work Plan and Deliverables

Attachment D – Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Attachment E – Budget Worksheet

Attachment F – Cumulative Quarterly Expenditure Projections Table

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