



# Advancing Colorado's Highly Skilled Workforce

## H-1B

Technical Skills Training Grant  
*4th Quarter 2013 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

1,775 participants have been served through 12/31/13  
1,311 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 Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) partnered with BMGI, an operational strategy consulting firm, to focus on Lean and Black Belt Development training in targeted industries. BMGI is an eligible provider on the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment’s Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). To more effectively reach out to possible

participants, BMGI and OED partnered to host a free career workshop in September 2013 during workforce development month. They targeted the unemployed and the long-term unemployed customers to determine fit for these trainings. In addition to its training programs, BMGI will work with its business partners as part of a placement strategy for program participants. Currently, Denver has one participant in training, with the goal of six participants.

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

The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is hosting their second sector partnership summit. Sector Summit II will take place on May 20th and 21st at a location yet to be determined in the Denver Metro area.

Sector Summit II will build on the work from the first summit that took place early last year by continuing to grow and expand sector partnerships across Colorado. The Summit will also focus on utilizing sector partnerships as the vehicle to develop industry-driven career pathways in Colorado.

**In presenting Sector Summit II CWDC is partnering with:**

- Colorado Community College System (CCCS)
- Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)
- Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
- Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE)
- Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT)

So who should attend Sector Summit II? This is for workforce, education, industry, and economic development professionals as well as any partners focused on the talent needs of a particular industry. This includes anyone involved in or wanting to be involved in a regional sector partnership or career pathway development.

Sector partnerships are industry specific regional partnerships, led by business in partnership with economic development, education, and workforce development. 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.

The CWDC is responsible for the continuous improvement of the Colorado workforce system, oversight of Workforce Investment Act funds, and ensuring a statewide strategic vision created from the bottom up through Council members and local partners. The CWDC advises the Governor and the Colorado Legislature on policy matters related to all programs and activities funded by the Workforce Investment Act.

Look for Sector Summit II registration in February 2014. Visit [www.sectorssummit.com](http://www.sectorssummit.com) for more information.

## Colorado Legacy Foundation Youth CareerConnect Grant Application

The Colorado Legacy Foundation (CLF) submitted a \$6.7 million grant application to the United States Department of Labor (DOL) in late January—*Increasing the Colorado STEM IT Talent Supply Chain*. The 4.5 year project is a multi-site, multi-model plan to increase the number and diversity of Colorado students securing industry credentials, earning postsecondary credits, and securing employment within in-demand science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations, with an emphasis on Information Technology (IT).



**Participating school districts include:**

- Delta County Schools District 50J
- Adams County School District 14
- Thompson School District R2J
- Falcon School District 49
- Poudre School District
- Eagle County School District

Increasing the Colorado STEM IT Talent Supply Chain intends to ensure that 2,250 – 3,750 students in grades 10-13 earn in-demand, high-growth H-1B visa certifications. In addition to schools, the multi-site proposal includes Local Education Agencies (LEAs), workforce centers, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and employers. Roles of each are defined. Partners will convene to develop comprehensive work plans when the grant is secured.

**Strengthened through numerous state partners supporting the effort, primary objectives are to:**

- Implement IT career pathways
- Provide robust career counseling supports
- Increase collaboration across partners
- Ensure project sustainability

U.S. DOL anticipates grantee selections to be made by April 2014.

**Get Involved**

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