

Department of Labor - Employment and Training Administration (ETA)



Upcoming ETA Competitive Funding Opportunities

National Health Emergency Demonstration Grant Projects

Published: March 20, 2018

Awards: on a rolling basis

ETA announced the availability of up to \$21 million in grant funds for National Health Emergency (NHE) demonstration grant projects for Program Year 2017.

The NHE demonstration grants will fund innovative approaches to addressing the economic and workforce-related impacts on communities affected by the opioid epidemic.

The goals of these grants are to:

- Test innovative approaches to address the economic and workforce-related impacts of the opioid epidemic;
- Provide training and support activities to dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), new entrants in the workforce, and incumbent workers, including individuals in these populations who are or have been impacted by the opioid crisis; and,
- To provide training that builds the skilled workforce in professions that could impact the causes and treatment of the opioid crisis, including addiction and substance-abuse treatment, mental health, and pain management.

ETA anticipates awarding 7 to 10 demonstration projects, with anticipated funding amounts between \$500,000 and \$5 million. The final amount of each grant is dependent on the number of applicants and the availability of funds.

Eligible applicant organizations include:

- State workforce agencies;
- Outlying areas; and,
- Indian tribal governments as defined by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(6))

Eligible participants are dislocated workers, new entrants in the workforce, or incumbent workers (currently employed or underemployed) who have a history of, or live or work in a community impacted by high levels of, opioid abuse.

Community Partnerships:

A core tenet of the NHE grants is that career and training services are only one part of a comprehensive set of solutions that address the health and well-being of individuals who have been struggling with addiction issues. Therefore, a requirement of the NHE grant is to demonstrate that the appropriate partnerships and strategies are in place to ensure that career and training services are delivered to eligible individuals at a time and in a manner most likely to result in reemployment. To ensure proper participant eligibility determinations as well as delivery of appropriate career, training, and supportive services, at least one local Workforce Development Board (WDB) or American Job Center (AJC), located in the area(s) proposed to be covered by the grant, must be a partner in the grant.

Veterans Accelerated Learning for Licensed Occupations Project ~ \$4.5 million

Anticipated Publication: Spring 2018

Awards Made: Summer 2018

ETA plans to award up to \$4,500,000 in grant funds for a Veterans Accelerated Learning for Licensed Occupations project to help increase and expedite attainment of state occupational licenses by veterans and transitioning service members (TSM). The project aims to accomplish this by identifying similarities and gaps between military education and training in specific military occupations as compared to the education required for related licensed civilian occupations. Where these identified gaps represent portions of multiple required courses the project will develop bridge curriculum, as open educational resources, to address those gaps such that veterans can efficiently complete a program of study required to obtain a state license needed to achieve their career objectives. Furthermore, the project seeks to identify instances in which civilian education programs can waive required courses by awarding credit for military training or giving veterans and TSM advanced standing within an existing training program. This program is authorized by the FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as clarified by language and instructions set forth in House Report 114-699 and Senate Report 114-274.

ETA expects to fund approximately 3 cooperative agreements to partnerships representing postsecondary education and licensing interests. Cooperative agreements will be awarded to the lead partner, which will serve as the grantee and have overall fiscal and administrative responsibility for the project. Applicants may apply for up to \$1.5 million of funding. Applicants may only submit one application in response to this FOA. Cost sharing is not required.

Eligible organizations:

There are two required partners in the partnership, one representing postsecondary education interests and one representing occupational licensing interests. Either of the required partners may be the lead applicant if also a Nonprofit Organization with IRS 501(c)(3) Status. The two required partners are:

1. A postsecondary education partner, which may be:
 - An association of postsecondary educational institutions;
 - A single postsecondary educational institution; or
 - A postsecondary education board, compact, or commission.
2. An occupational licensing partner, which may be:
 - An association of multiple state occupational licensing boards or agencies; or
 - An interstate occupational licensing compact.

The required partners may elect to include up to three additional partners in the partnership. The partnership as a whole may not exceed five organizations.

Applicants may include current or former DOL grantees; new applicants that have not received previous DOL grants are also encouraged to apply. ETA anticipates that this funding opportunity will only be available once. The period of performance is 36 months with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2018. This performance period includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

State Occupational Licensing Review and Reform ~ \$4.5 million

Anticipated Publication: Spring 2018

Awards Made: Summer 2018

ETA plans to award up to \$4,500,000 in grant funds for a State Occupational Licensing Review and Reform project. The overarching goal of this grant program is to provide states with the means to review and reform occupational licensing requirements in state identified occupations and to promote portability of state licenses to other states, which is of particular concern to dislocated workers and military families. States will objectively analyze the relevant licensing criteria, potential portability issues, and whether licensing requirements are overly broad or burdensome in presenting barriers to specific populations, such as those with criminal records. States may consider the potential of alternative approaches that would be adequate to protect public health and safety.

Individual states may apply for between \$100,000 and \$450,000. An association of states may apply for up to \$1,000,000. Applicants are required to explain and justify their planned use of the funds in the grant application. Successful state applicants will use the grant funds to pay for staff support and subject matter expertise to review both existing and pending licensing regulations and requirements to achieve the grant's goal to support review and reform of occupational licensure and regulation to increase access to employment as well as worker mobility and portability of qualifications. The project may include staff and research support for an existing, new, or expanded state task force or commission on occupational licensing.

This program is authorized by the FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as clarified by language and instructions set forth in House Report 114-699 and Senate Report 114-274.

ETA expects to fund approximately 10 to 20 grants to states and may also fund one or two associations of states. Applicants may only submit one application in response to this FOA. Cost sharing is not required.

Eligible organizations are state agencies or an association of states. Achieving improvements in licensure requires a collaborative approach across state government, including the governor, state legislature, and relevant agencies and oversight bodies. Applicants for this project will need to assemble diverse teams that reflect these executive, legislative, and other organizational entities that play a key role in occupational licensing policy considerations. The entities will form a partnership that will work together to review their state's approach to occupational regulation and existing licensing requirements and develop recommendations for reform.

Applicants may include current or former DOL grantees; new applicants that have not received previous DOL grants are also encouraged to apply. ETA anticipates that this funding opportunity will only be available once. The period of performance is 36 months with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2018. This performance period includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

Reentry Projects ~ \$82.5 million

Anticipated Publication: Spring 2018

Awards Made: Summer 2018

ETA plans to award approximately \$82.5 million in grant funds for Reentry Projects, which provide the opportunity for organizations to build customized projects built on evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions or promising practices that will lead to improved employment outcomes for either young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 who have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system, including high school dropouts, or adults ages 25 or older who were formerly incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system and released from prison or jail within 180 days of enrollment. ETA seeks to enhance both adult and young adult reentry strategies through collaboration with the field to identify and respond to emerging or chronic reentry challenges for these populations. ETA is seeking proposed strategies to address these issues, including trying new approaches, work-based learning experiences, addressing gaps in services, or building or translating research knowledge. All projects must be located in high-crime, high-poverty communities.

Applicants may submit up to two (2) applications in response to this FOA, a maximum of one (1) to serve adults and one (1) to serve young adults. Applicants may not propose to serve young adults and adults in the same application, and applicants selected to receive a grant award under this FOA may not serve adults and young adults in the same program.

Eligible applicants must indicate if they are applying as either an intermediary organization (for the purpose of this Announcement, intermediary organizations are defined as organizations that have an affiliate network or offices in at least three communities and across at least two states) or as a non-intermediary organization (for the purpose of the Announcement, non-intermediary organizations are those with single sites or multiple sites within one state) in their application.

Applicants must then select their target population. Applicants may propose to serve either adults (ages 25 or older who have been incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system and released from prison or jail within 180 days of enrollment) or young adults (ages 18-24 who have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system, including high school dropouts) but may not serve both in the same program.

All eligible applicants must be community-or faith-based organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status, including women's and minority organizations; state or local governments; or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Eligible applicants may be rural or urban-serving organizations. For purposes of this FOA, a rural area is any U.S. Census bureau tract that is neither an urbanized area nor an urban cluster, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau defines urban areas as places of 2,500 or more persons incorporated in cities, villages, boroughs (except in Alaska and New York), and towns (except in the six New England States, New York, and Wisconsin), but excluding the rural portion of "extended cities."

Applicants may include current or former Department of Labor (DOL) grantees; new applicants that have not received previous DOL grants are also encouraged to apply.

Approximately \$82.5 million in total is expected to be awarded under this opportunity to roughly 35 organizations. ETA will award approximately ten grants of up to \$4.5 million each to ten intermediary organizations. Of these awards, roughly three will serve adults and seven will serve young adults. ETA will award at least \$25 million to intermediaries serving young adults. In addition, ETA will award approximately 25

grants of up to \$1.5 million each to other organizations. Of these awards, roughly 12 will serve adults and 13 will serve young adults.

YouthBuild ~ \$80 million

Anticipated Publication: Spring 2018

Awards Made: Summer 2018

ETA plans to award approximately \$80 million in grant funds, dependent on the final FY 2018 appropriation, for the YouthBuild program, a community-based alternative education program for youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are high school dropouts or who previously dropped out and subsequently re-enrolled, adjudicated youth, youth in and aging out of foster care, youth with disabilities, and other disadvantaged youth populations. The YouthBuild program simultaneously addresses several core issues important to low-income communities: affordable housing; education; employment; and leadership development. These grants will be awarded to organizations to oversee the provision of education, occupational skills training, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, and employment services to disadvantaged youth. YouthBuild programs must provide construction training and work on low-income housing in their communities but they can also offer additional in-demand industry training to align with local in-demand occupations and provide more diverse placement opportunities for youth who choose not to pursue construction careers.

Applicants may submit only one application in response to this announcement, and only if they were not awarded a YouthBuild grant in the previous year.

Eligible applicants are limited to:

- Community and faith-based organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status (including women's and minority organizations);
- An entity carrying out activities under WIOA, such as a local workforce development board or One-Stop Career Center;
- Educational institutions, including a local school board, public school district, or community college;
- A community action agency;
- A state or local housing development agency;
- Any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166 of WIOA, including Federally and Other Than Federally-Recognized Tribes, Native American non-profit organizations, and Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native organizations;
- A community development corporation;
- A state or local youth service conservation corps; and
- Any other public or private non-profit entity that is eligible to provide education or employment training under a Federal program and can meet the required elements of the grant.

Approximately \$80 million in total is expected to be awarded under this opportunity through roughly 80 grants across the country. Individual grants will range from approximately \$700,000 to \$1.1 million and require a 25 percent match from applicants, using sources other than Federal funding.

Indian and Native American Employment and Training Programs ~ \$62 million
(\$50 million for the Comprehensive Service Program [Adult] and \$12 million for Supplemental Youth Services)

Anticipated Publication: Spring 2018

Awards Made: Summer 2018

ETA plans to award approximately \$62 million in grant funds, dependent on the final FY 2018 appropriation for the Native American employment and training programs, which provide employment and training activities for low income and unemployed American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians (see WIOA section 166). The purpose of these programs is to: 1) develop the academic, occupational, and literacy skills of such individuals; 2) make these individuals more competitive in the workforce and to equip them with entrepreneurial skills necessary for successful self-employment; and 3) promote the economic and social development of Native communities in accordance with the goals and values of such communities. Grantees must meet minimum regulatory requirements, but have great flexibility in deciding the design of their respective programs.

Applicants may submit only one application in response to this announcement.

Eligible applicants are any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166 of WIOA, limited to Federally-Recognized Tribes, Native American non-profit organizations, and Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native organizations.

Approximately \$62 million in total is expected to be awarded under this opportunity through roughly 176 grants across the country. Funds will be allocated to successful entities through a funding formula defined in Departmental regulations using the latest available Decennial Census data and based on the number of individuals that are unemployed and living in poverty within specified geographic areas of the United States (i.e., counties, Indian reservations, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas, and Alaska Native Village Service Areas). In addition, the Supplemental Youth Services Program provides funding specifically for Native American youth “on or near” Indian reservations and in Alaska, Hawaii, and Oklahoma. This funding is a supplement to the section 166 funding and is awarded primarily to Federally-Recognized Tribes to serve Native American youth living on Indian reservations. This program currently funds 176 grants with funding amounts ranging from \$14,803 to \$5,525,686 for the Comprehensive Services Program and \$1,006 to \$2,885,909 for the Supplemental Youth Services Program.

RETAIN Demonstration Projects ~ \$63 million

Anticipated Publication: Summer 2018

Awards Made: Fall 2018

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), in collaboration with ETA and the Social Security Administration plan to award approximately \$55,000,000 to \$63,000,000 in cooperative agreement funds to plan and conduct pilot demonstration projects called RETAIN – Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness. RETAIN demonstrations will test the impact of early intervention projects on stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) outcomes. Central to these projects is the early coordination of health care and employment-related supports and services to help injured or ill workers remain in the workforce. To accomplish this, successful applicants will provide services through an integrated network of partners that include close collaboration between state and/or local workforce development entities, health care systems and/or health care

provider networks, and other partners as appropriate.

The RETAIN Demonstration will be structured and funded in two phases. The initial period of performance (Phase 1) will be 18 months and will include planning and start-up activities, including the launch of a small pilot demonstration no later than month nine. We expect to provide approximately \$2,166,000 each to an estimated six state workforce agencies in the form of cooperative agreements for Phase 1. At the conclusion of the initial period of performance, a subset of up to three Phase 1 awardees will be competitively awarded supplemental funding of up to \$18,600,000 to implement the demonstration projects during Phase 2. Awardees will be required to participate in an evaluation, which will be designed in Phase 1 and conducted during Phase 2 by an external, independent contractor.

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- State Departments of Labor, State Workforce Development Agencies, or an equivalent entity with responsibility for labor, employment, and/or workforce development; and
- Entities described in section 166(c) of WIOA relating to Indian and Native American programs. These entities include Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations. These applicants are not required to partner with Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs).

This information is intended for planning purposes. Interested applicants must follow the final requirements in the specific Funding Opportunity when published.