

**Introduction to the Trade Adjustment Assistance
Community College and Career Training Program (TAACCCT)**
CFDA # 17.282

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) amended the Trade Act to authorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT). The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act signed by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2010 included \$2 billion over four years to fund this program.
- The grants will be administered by the Department of Labor (DOL), DOL is working closely with the Department of Education to implement the TAACCCT. This program complements President Obama's broader agenda for helping every American have at least one year of post-secondary education, and will help reach his goal of America having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.
- Over the next year, DOL will award approximately \$500 million through this grant program. By statute, the program is designed to ensure that every state, through its eligible institutions of higher education, will receive at least \$2.5 million in grant awards. "State" includes the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- DOL anticipates opening the competition for these grant funds in Fall 2010. We encourage both eligible individual institutions of higher education and eligible consortia of institutions of higher education to apply.
- These resources will enable eligible institutions of higher education to expand their capacity to provide quality education and training services to TAA for Workers program participants and other individuals to improve their knowledge and skills and enable them to obtain high-quality employment to support their families.
- This program is designed to meet industry needs while accelerating individual learning and improving college retention and achievement rates to increase industry-recognized credential or degree completion rates of TAA for Workers program participants and other individuals. DOL is interested in projects that use online or technology-driven learning to achieve these objectives.
- Part of the program will support consortia of eligible institutions of higher education that will work together to take a broad view across an entire community, region, State, or industry sector, and leverage their collective experience to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs. For example, a consortium applicant may propose strategies to develop and share courses to ensure they are more available and convenient to workers. Such courses could provide more workers with recognized academic and industry credentials that meet the needs of more employers in the communities represented by the consortium.
- Prospective applicants should review the authorizing legislation for the program, particularly guidelines about community outreach that should be conducted prior to submitting a grant application. (19 USC 2372, 123 Stat. 406 at http://fwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ005.111.pdf)

**Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Program (TAACCCT)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1) What is the timeline of the Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) announcement and funding?

The SGA will be announced in Fall 2010 and awards will be made no later than September 30, 2011.

2) Who can apply?

To be eligible to compete for funding under this Solicitation, the applicant must be an institution of higher education as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, which offers programs that can be completed in not more than 2 years. Eligible institutions may apply as an individual institution, or as the lead institution in a consortium of eligible institutions. Applicants must engage employers in grant activities and are strongly encouraged to include community-based organizations and the public workforce system in the implementation of innovative activities to ensure sustainability, relevance and success.

3) May I apply for more than one grant?

Eligible institutions may only submit one application in response to the SGA, either as a single eligible institution or as the lead institution in a consortium. However, eligible institutions may participate as a member of a consortium in one or more consortium applications in which they do not serve as the lead institution. This means that eligible institutions may not be the applicant on more than one SF-424 application form.

However, a single application (either single institution or consortium applicants) may propose quality education and training services in more than one program of study.

4) May State or local educational agencies (SEAs or LEAs) apply?

No. Please see above for eligible applicants.

5) What amount of funding is available? Is there a limit?

Up to \$500 million will be available. We expect individual awards to range from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. Consortium applicants may submit proposals for quality projects between \$2.5 million and \$20 million. Please see the Solicitation when published in the Federal Register for final award amounts.

6) How long are the grants active?

The period of performance for these grant awards will be up to 36 months from the effective date of the grant.

7) What is the role of employers?

Eligible institutions must involve at least one employer who will be actively engaged in the project and may contribute to defining the program strategy and goals, identifying necessary skills and competencies, assisting to support education/training, providing assistance with program design, and, where appropriate, hiring qualified program participants.

8) What can I do now to prepare for the Solicitation?

In preparing to apply for this program, we encourage applicants to read the legislation (19 USC 2372 – 2372a), which authorizes the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants program. We also encourage prospective applicants to view the online tutorial, “Grant Applications 101: A Plain English Guide to ETA Competitive Grants,” available through Workforce3One at: http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants_toolkit. Prospective applicants can register on www.Grants.gov to access the SGA when it is available. In addition, DOL posts grant information at www.doleta.gov/grants.

In preparing for the Solicitation, applicants should also know that ETA supports an Industry Competency Model Initiative to promote an understanding of the skill sets and competencies that are essential to an educated and skilled workforce. Competency models are a resource for engaging employers that allows them to articulate the skill requirements of their workforce and define successful performance in their own work settings. Competency models serve as a starting point for the design and implementation of workforce and talent development programs. To learn about the industry-validated models visit the Competency Model Clearinghouse (CMC) at <http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/>. The CMC site also provides tools to build or customize industry models, as well as tools to build career ladders and/or lattices leading to career pathways.