

assistance services to eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers under WIA Section 167, the Department will select those applicants submitting proposals that are deemed the most responsive to the requirements of this SGA. WIA Section 167 provides that, in order for an applicant to be eligible to receive a grant the grantee must have:

1. An understanding of the problems of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including their dependents;
2. A familiarity with the geographical area to be served; and
3. A demonstrated capacity to effectively administer a diversified program of workforce investment activities and related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Additionally, to be responsive to the objectives of this SGA, applications for a grant award must demonstrate how:

1. Service delivery arrangements will be put in place that lead to an expanded co-enrollment of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in WIA Title I formula funded adult and dislocated worker services, as well as services provided by other One-Stop partner agencies. Applicants must also demonstrate how they will work with Local Workforce Development Boards in the proposed service area(s) to assure that activities proposed under the Section 167 grant are coordinated with, and build on, the workforce development strategies and services indicated in the local workforce investment plan (*see* Workforce Investment Act final rules at § 661.345 to § 661.355).

If the applicant is a Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB), a One-Stop Career Center operator applying on behalf of a LWIB, the application must demonstrate how efforts were undertaken to integrate services provided by all One-Stop partners and to enhance the workforce and related services provided to farmworkers.

2. Training strategies and specific skill opportunities will be provided that enable farmworkers to transition into higher skilled and higher paid jobs with employment growth potential either in agriculture or outside the industry.

3. The English language proficiency of farmworkers who are not bilingual will be improved and how competencies for farmworkers who are basic skill deficient will be improved.

4. Training strategies will be established to enable farmworkers to become proficient in basic computer skills and using the Internet as a source of information on job and training opportunities.

For purposes of this grant application, applications are solicited for a single NFJP operation per state, to serve the migrant and seasonal farmworkers of each state and Puerto Rico, with the following exceptions:

- Connecticut and Rhode Island are a combined state service area;
- Delaware and Maryland are a combined state service area;
- Applications for the combined state areas mentioned above must address the two states as a single geographic area, but the proposed service delivery plan for the combined state area must show that consideration has been given to the entire population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers working or residing within the combined state geographic area;
- Between 4 and 6 applications will be selected to operate the NFJP program in the agricultural counties of California; and
- No application will be accepted to provide services in Alaska due to the State's small relative share of seasonal agricultural employment.

#### *Submission of Proposals*

A cover letter, an original plus two (2) copies of the proposal, and one (1) blue ink-signed original SF 424 must be timely submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Financial Assistance, Room S-4203, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. This proposal must have two parts: (1) A technical proposal; and (2) a cost proposal.

Hand-delivered applications. To be considered for funding, hand-delivered applications must be received not later than 4:45 p.m., Eastern Time, on the closing date, at the specified address.

**Withdrawal of applications.** Applications may be withdrawn by written notice or telegram (including mail gram) received at any time before an award is made. Applications may be withdrawn in person by the applicant or by an authorized representative, if the representative's identity is made known and the representative signs a receipt for the application. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be basis for a determination of non-responsiveness.

#### *Format and Content of Grant Application*

An application must consist of two (2) separate and distinct parts: A technical proposal and a cost proposal. The grant application should be limited to 50 numbered pages, double spaced, in 12-point type and typewritten on one side of the paper only. Letters of support and any required attachments will not be

subject to the page limitations. Include all attachments under Part III.

#### **Applicant Eligibility for the NFJP Program**

##### **A. Understanding the Problems of the Eligible Migrants and Seasonal Farmworkers in the State or Area**

Understanding the area's economy and the problems faced by the migrant and seasonal farmworkers working within that economy is essential to formulating a comprehensive service strategy to increase their employment and earnings. In this section, applicants must describe the economy in the geographic area they propose to serve, and how that economy affects the employment conditions of migrant and seasonal farmworkers over the course of the service year.

1. Describe the agricultural economy present in the geographic area to be served. Include information about the general employment conditions, numbers of employers, and any changes in the economic conditions expected during the course of the year that hold implications for how best to meet the employment and training needs of farmworkers. In addition to indicating the number of employers in the geographic area to be served, describe the key growers and agribusiness employers in the area, especially those that are likely to make a significant contribution to employment growth in the higher-wage, higher-skilled agricultural occupations.

2. Describe the agricultural and non-agricultural labor markets in proposed service area(s). Applicants should be specific about the job opportunities that are expected to be available and the applicant's capacity to serve as a broker, both within the business community and the One-Stop system, to improve farmworkers' access to these opportunities. The description should also include a discussion of projected high growth occupations in the proposed service area that hold the potential for improved employment and earnings for farmworkers.

3. Describe the socio-economic characteristics and problems faced by eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and their dependents, in the proposed service area.

4. Summarize the applicant's understanding of the economy and labor market in the proposed service area and discuss the implications of descriptions provided in sub-sections 1, 2 and 3, above, for the kind of workforce development assistance required to significantly increase the employment