

Signed: May 5, 2003.

Bradley A. Buckles,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Disability Employment Policy [SGA 03-13]

Customized Employment Grants Initiative

AGENCY: Office of Disability
Employment Policy, Department of
Labor.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds;
solicitation for grant applications (SGA
03-13).

This notice contains all of the
necessary information and forms needed
to apply for grant funding. (SGA 03-13)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor
(DOL or the Department), Office of
Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
announces the availability of \$2.5
million to award up to five competitive
grants ranging from approximately
\$500,000 to \$750,000 for strategic
planning and implementation activities
designed to improve the employment
and career advancement of people with
disabilities through enhanced
availability and provision of customized
employment services through the One-
Stop delivery system established under
the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
(WIA) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801
et seq.).

The purpose of this Customized
Employment Grant Initiative, begun by
ODEP in FY'01 and continued in FY'02,
is to provide funds to selected Local
Workforce Investment Boards (Local
Boards), or, if appropriate, the WIA
grant recipient or fiscal agent for the
local area on behalf of the Local Board.
The Local Board will be the lead entity
in a consortium/partnership of public
and private entities, to build the
capacity in local One-Stop Centers to
provide customized employment
services to those persons with
disabilities who may not now be
regularly targeted for services by the
One-Stop Center system. Grants funded
under this program will also provide a
vehicle for Local Boards to systemically
review their policies and practices in
terms of service to persons with
disabilities, and to incorporate new and
innovative practices, as appropriate.

Grants are for a one-year period and
may be renewed for a period of up to
four additional years at varying funding

levels depending upon the availability
of funds and the efficacy of the project
activities. *See also* Parts IV, IX.

The applicants scoring the highest
when evaluated pursuant to the criteria
set forth in Part VII, in conjunction with
considerations by the Grant Officer
delineated in Part IX of this Solicitation
for Grant Application will be awarded
Customized Employment Grants.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for
these grants are Local Workforce
Investment Boards (Local Boards) or if
appropriate, the Workforce Investment
Act (WIA) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 U.S.C.
2801 *et seq.*) grant recipient or fiscal
agent for the local area on behalf of the
local board under the Workforce
Investment Act. The Local Board may
enter into numerous partnerships with
other public and private entities,
consistent with the proposed activities
of the grant.

DATES: Applications will be accepted
commencing on June 6, 2003. The
closing date for receipt of applications
under this announcement is July 21,
2003. Applications must be received by
4:45 p.m. (ET) at the address below. No
exceptions to the mailing and hand-
delivery conditions set forth in this
notice will be granted. Applications that
do not meet the conditions set forth in
this notice will be considered non-
responsive.

ADDRESSES: Applications shall be
mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor,
Procurement Services Center, Attention:
Cassandra Willis, Reference SGA 03-13,
Room N-5416, 200 Constitution
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.
Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will
not be accepted. Applicants are advised
that mail in the Washington area may be
delayed due to mail decontamination
procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Cassandra Willis, U.S. Department of
Labor, Procurement Services Center,
telephone (202) 693-4570 (this is not a
toll-free number), prior to the closing
deadline. Persons who are deaf or hard
of hearing may contact ODEP via the
Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339.
This announcement will also be
published on the Internet on ODEP's
online Home Page at: <http://www2.dol.gov/odep>. Award
notifications will also be published on
the ODEP homepage.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Part I. Delivery of Applications

1. *Late Applications.* Any application
received after the exact date and time
specified for receipt at the office
designated in this notice will be
considered non-responsive, unless it is

received before awards are made and it
(a) is determined that its late receipt was
caused by DOL error; (b) was sent by
U.S. Postal Service registered or
certified mail not later than the fifth
calendar day before the date specified
for receipt of applications (*e.g.*, an
application submitted in response to a
solicitation requiring receipt of
applications by the 20th of the month
must have been post marked by the 15th
of that month); or (c) was sent by the
U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next
Day Service to addressee not later than
5 p.m. at the place of mailing two
working days prior to the date specified
for receipt of applications. The term
"working days" excludes weekends and
Federal holidays. "Post marked" means
a printed, stamped or otherwise placed
impression (exclusive of a postage meter
machine impression) that is readily
identifiable, without further action, as
having been supplied or affixed on the
date of mailing by an employee of the
U.S. Postal Service.

2. *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 thereof,
if the representative's identity is made
known and the representative signs a
receipt of the proposal.

3. *Hand-delivered proposals.* It is
preferred that applications be mailed at
least five days prior to the closing date.
To be considered for funding, hand-
delivered applications must be received
by 4:45 p.m., ET, at the specified
address. Failure to adhere to the above
instructions will be basis for a
determination of non-responsiveness.
Overnight express mail from carriers
other than the U.S. Postal Service will
be considered hand-delivered
applications and must be received by
the above specified date and time.

Part II. Authority

Omnibus Appropriations Resolution,
2003, Public Law 1087; Consolidated
Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law
106-554, 29 U.S.C. 557b.

Part III. Background

The President's New Freedom
Initiative is designed to increase the
number of people with disabilities who
enter, reenter, and remain in the
workforce. It is dedicated to increasing
investment in and access to assistive
technologies, a quality education, and
increasing the integration of Americans
with disabilities into the workforce and
community life. The WIA provides the
infrastructure for streamlining services