

[FR Doc. 03-14350 Filed 6-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-CX-C

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of Disability Employment Policy****[SGA 03-09]****High School/High Tech State Development and Implementation Grants****AGENCY:** Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds; solicitation for grant applications (SGA).

This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding. (SGA 03-09).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announces the availability of \$1.8 million to award up to eight competitive grants in the amount of approximately \$225,000 to assist states in implementing the High School/High Tech (HS/HT) program on a statewide basis.

This grant initiative involves one competitive Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) that will be used to award both HS/HT Implementation Grants and HS/HT Development Grants:

(1) *HS/HT State Implementation Grants:* Successful state applicants will demonstrate that all partners relevant to successful implementation of the HS/HT program in the state are in place (e.g., education, Workforce Investment Act, Development Disability Councils, etc.); and that the state has the capacity to implement the HS/HT design features discussed below throughout the state. In addition, successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a strong plan for sustainability of the HS/HT program when federal funding ceases. The Implementation Grants will be awarded for a one-year period of performance and funded at a level of \$225,000. These grants may be renewed up to four times for an additional year of funding with the fourth and fifth years at reduced funding levels of 80% and 60% of third year funding levels, respectively, depending upon project performance and funding availability. See also Parts IV, IX.

(2) *HS/HT State Development Grants:* These grants will be targeted to state applicants able to demonstrate their capacity to implement and sustain the HS/HT program as described above in relation to the Implementation Grants within a short time period if provided with appropriate technical assistance.

The Development Grants will be awarded for a one-year period of performance and funded at \$225,000, after which time grantees will be eligible to apply for Implementation Grant funding. Development Grants will not be renewable.

The purpose of these grants is to assist states, working in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board, in implementing a statewide HS/HT program, in integrating the HS/HT program into youth services funded under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), and in ensuring sustainability of the HS/HT program through state-level management and coordination. HS/HT is a career development program designed to provide high school aged youth with disabilities with an opportunity to explore careers or gain further education that may lead to technology-related careers. These programs, which have generally been locally directed and supported, serve both in-school and out-of-school youth with disabilities in a year round program of corporate site visits, mentoring, job shadowing, guest speakers, after school activities and summer internships.

The application and evaluation/selection criteria for both types of grants are the same. The first applicants selected when evaluated pursuant to the criteria set forth in Parts VII and IX of this SGA will be awarded High School/High Tech Implementation Grants. The next three applicants selected will receive HS/HT Development Grants. Revised scope of work and budget documents will be required from all Development Grantees within forty-five (45) days of the award to reflect the one-year period of performance.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for these grants include State Workforce Investment Boards; State Departments of Education; State Departments of Labor; State Developmental Disability Councils; State Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation; or State Committees affiliated with the National Governors' Committees for People with Disabilities, and other similar state agencies. "State" in this context includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Consortia of state agencies and not-for-profit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations, independent living centers, etc.) and local HS/HT sites are also eligible applicants. Prior recipients of state-level HS/HT grant funding are ineligible to receive additional funding under this solicitation.

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 03-09, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be accepted. Applicants are advised that mail delivery 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 the DOL 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.

Solicitation Information Conference Call: A Solicitation Information Conference Call will be held at 2 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2003. The purpose of this conference call is to provide interested parties an overview of this grant program and an opportunity to ask questions concerning this solicitation. Transcripts of the conference will be made available on request in accessible formats. Individuals who wish to participate in this conference call must register by contacting ODEP at (202) 693-7880, no later than 4:45 p.m. ET on Tuesday, June 16, 2003. Please ask to register for the HS/HT SGA Conference Call. Registrations should be made as soon as possible. At the time of registration, call-in information will be provided.

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