

more workers or offering more courses or projects resulting from collaborations, especially with more than one small business or with a labor management training program or project, or for a partnership that involves and directly benefits more than one small business.

TABLE 1.—KEY FACTS ABOUT H-1B VISA APPROVED PETITIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

	Percent of total
Country of Birth:	
India	48.9
China	8.3
Canada	3.9
Philippines	3.1
United Kingdom	2.9
All other	33.8
Age:	
Under 20	00.0
20–24	11.6
25–29	41.9
30–34	25.8
35–39	12.0
40 and over	8.70
Level of Education:	
Less than Associate's degree	1.2
Associate's degree	0.6
Bachelor's degree	56.8
Master's degree	31.1
Doctorate degree	7.4
Professional degree	3.0
Occupational Area:	
Computer/information technology	58.0
Architecture, engineering and surveying	12.2
Administrative specialties	7.2
Education	5.3
Managers and officials	3.8
Medicine and health	3.4
Life sciences	2.0
Social sciences	1.9
Mathematics/physical sciences	1.7
All other	3.2

Source: *Report on Characteristics of Specialty Occupation Workers (H-1B), Fiscal Year 2001*, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, July 2002.

Forty-three H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants totaling \$95.6 million were awarded under the provisions of ACWIA 1998. Under ACWIA 2000, the Department of Labor has awarded, as of October 1, 2002, a total of 45 grants totaling \$116.7 million; of these, 31 grants totaling \$82.3 million were under the 75 percent funding stream and 14 grants totaling \$34.5 million were under the 25 percent funding stream. H-1B grants under earlier SGAs were funded for up to a 24-month period, with the possibility of an additional option year, based on performance, continued demand for training, and availability of funds.

Combining awards made under both ACWIA 1998 and ACWIA 2000, the Department of Labor has awarded a total of 88 H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants totaling \$212 million. Because funds are available as they are collected from H-1B user fee revenues, the Department anticipates that additional H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant applications will be funded throughout fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002–September 30, 2003). Additional details on the background of the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants demonstration project can be found at the H-1B Web site <http://www.doleta.gov/h-1b>. This Web site contains descriptions of current projects, legislative documents and research papers.

B. Principles of H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants

Development, implementation and operation of H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants as envisioned under the authorizing legislation (see Background above) is based on the following principles:

Business Involvement: Businesses are the workforce investment system's customers who generate the demand for all jobs, in particular, the demand for high skill occupations. Businesses are essential partners in formulating, developing and operating H-1B technical skills grant projects. Under WIA, business plays a critical, leadership role in planning and overseeing training and employment activities. WIA requires that the majority of the membership of state and local Workforce Investment Boards are business representatives, and that the state and local board chairs be drawn from business. For the purpose of these grants, it is desirable that businesses represented in the group applying for this grant include those with current high technology skills shortages. Some of these businesses may have in the past utilized foreign workers under the H-1B visa program. Now, they intend to hire, retain, or promote graduates of the H-1B technical skills training program.

Partnership Sustainability: The grant awards under this SGA will not exceed duration of 36 months with an option for a no cost extension of up to 12 additional months. No cost extensions extend the period during which existing grant funds may be spent. ETA intends that regional partnerships sustain themselves over the long term and well after the federal resources from this initiative have been exhausted. In addition, coordination and consultation with the applicable state workforce agency and/or the Governor's office or

State Workforce Investment Board is vital to long-term sustainability and will potentially spread high skill training efforts beyond the grantee site. The statutory 50 percent non-federal matching requirement is an integral part of ensuring sustainability because the matching resources are expected to help extend the skill shortages training effort beyond the term of the grant. This partnership sustainability concept relates to two rating criteria: Links with Key Partners and Sustainability (the resources each partner offers and the role of external resources in building the foundation for a long-term partnership).

High Skill Level Focus and Innovative Service Delivery: Training selected employed and unemployed workers to fill current local or regional high skill level shortages is the immediate focus of this initiative. Training investments should be targeted in occupational areas that have been identified on the basis of H-1B occupations as high technology skill shortage areas. H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants are not intended to address lower level skill labor shortages nor are they intended to fund training programs aimed at imparting basic educational skills. In addition, H-1B grants are not intended to address occupational shortages due to reasons other than high technology skill shortages.

Innovative or proven tools and approaches, that may include on-the-job training, distance learning, or combinations of training and educational techniques, to close particular skill gaps and provide strategies for training that promote regional development are hallmarks of successful H-1B technical skills training projects. H-1B grantees should tailor training to the needs of the selected incumbent and unemployed workers, both in content and delivery.

Qualified Target Population: Technical skills training is geared towards employed and unemployed workers who can be trained and placed directly in highly skilled H-1B occupations or in the highest echelons of an H-1B career ladder. Candidates for training funded by H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants should possess (and be identified through appropriate assessment tools) a high level of general educational background and, in addition, have the prerequisites for the occupational training being proposed. Targeted individuals should also possess certain characteristics such as drive and initiative that will help guarantee successful completion of the high skill level training funded by H-1B grants.