

interested that the applicants demonstrate clear evidence that matching resources will sustain training activities after the expiration of the grant. Although matches may be one-time occurrences, applicants are encouraged to seek partnerships that reflect a commitment, financially and non-financially, to the future success of the proposed program.

#### *F. Grantee Data System*

The grantee must have a system capable of collecting, storing and retrieving participant and training result information and producing reports needed for administrative, management, and analytical purposes. ETA will be routinely validating data as part of its oversight responsibilities, so grantees must ensure the accuracy and validity of information reported. The grantee must identify the data elements to be routinely collected.

#### *G. Other*

The application must include identification of a management entity, the proposed staffing pattern, the resumes of key staff members and detailed descriptions of the roles of various entities participating in the partnership. Each application MUST designate an individual who will serve as project director and who will devote a substantial portion of his/her time to the project, which may be defined as at least 60 percent. The applicant should also include a description of the organizational capacity and track record in high skill training and related activities of the primary actors in the partnership.

### **Part III—Application Process**

#### *A. Eligible Applicants*

Section 111(c)(2)(A)(i) of ACWIA 2000 specifies that the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, subject to the availability of funds in the H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account, award 75 percent of the grants to Local Boards established under section 116(b) or 117 of the WIA, 29 U.S.C. 2831(b) and 2832, or consortia of such Boards in a region. A consortium can cross state lines or involve more than one statewide Local Board.

Each Local Board or consortium of boards receiving grant funds must represent a local or regional public-private partnership consisting of at least one Local Board; one business or business-related non-profit organization such as a trade association and one community-based organization (which may be a faith-based organization), or

higher education institution, or labor union.

The activities of the local or regional public-private partnership must be conducted in coordination with the activities of the relevant Local Board or Boards established under WIA. ACWIA 2000 requires that each partnership designate a fiscal agent responsible for being the recipient of grant funds.

Under this announcement, only Local Boards (through their designated fiscal agents) and consortia of Local Boards may apply for and receive these grant awards. This requirement does not prevent the participation of other partners or concerned entities, which are integral to the process of planning for and conducting skills training in skills shortage areas. As noted earlier under Supplementary Information, successful applicants under earlier H-1B solicitations are eligible to apply for grants under this competition. Current awardees must indicate how their new proposals can provide a different approach or scope to skills training given program improvements developed under the current award.

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with entities that possess a sound grasp of the job market in the region and are in a position to address the issue of skill shortage occupations. These entities include organizations such as private, for-profit businesses—including small and medium-size businesses; business, trade, or industry associations such as local Chambers of Commerce and small business federations; and labor unions. These partners should include businesses and business associations, which have experienced first hand the problems of coping with skill shortages and which employ workers engaged in skill shortage occupations.

This notice will not prescriptively define the roles of individual entities within the partnership beyond requiring that the Local Boards or consortia be the applicant and designate a fiscal agent for receiving grant funds, as stated in ACWIA 2000. The applicant's proposal is expected to provide a detailed discussion of participating organizations' respective responsibilities.

Based on ETA's experience, regional partnerships that actively engage a wide range of participation from community groups—particularly with strong private employer involvement—appear to be more successful. Consortia of Local Boards representing more than one area that share common economic goals may join together as one applicant rather than applying individually.

The application must clearly identify the applicant (or the fiscal agent), the grant recipient (and/or fiscal agent), and describe its capacity to administer this project. It must also indicate that the project is consistent with and will be coordinated with the activities of the relevant Local Board or Boards and with the other partners in the workforce investment system(s) that are involved in technical skills activities in the relevant region(s).

According to Section 18 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engages in lobbying activities will not be eligible for the receipt of federal funds constituting an award, grant, or loan.

**Note:** Except as specifically provided in this Notice, DOL/ETA's acceptance of a proposal and an award of federal funds to sponsor any program(s) does not provide a waiver of any grant requirements and/or procedures. For example, the OMB Circulars require and an entity's procurement procedures must require that all procurement transactions are conducted, as much as practical, to provide open and free competition. If a proposal identifies a specific entity to provide services, the DOL/ETA's award does not provide the justification or basis to sole-source the procurement, *i.e.*, it does not authorize the applicant to avoid competition when procuring these services.

Part IV of this announcement identifies the criteria that will be used to rate applicant submissions. These criteria and point value are:

Criterion	Points
A. Statement of Need .....	10
B. Level of Training and Service Delivery Strategy .....	25
C. Target Population .....	10
D. Sustainability .....	15
E. Linkages with Key Partners .....	15
F. Outcomes, Management and Cost Effectiveness .....	25
Total Possible Points .....	100

#### *B. Submission of Proposals*

Applicants must submit four (4) copies of their proposal, with original signatures. The proposal must consist of two (2) separate and distinct parts, Parts I and II.

Part I of the proposal must contain the Standard Form (SF) 424, "Application for Federal Assistance" (Appendix C) and the Budget Information Form (Appendix D). Upon confirmation of an award, the individual signing the SF 424 on behalf of the applicant shall represent the responsible financial and administrative entity.