

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Applications may be withdrawn by written notice or telegram (including mail gram) received at any time before an award is made. Applications may be withdrawn in person by the applicant or by an authorized representative thereof, if the representative's identity is made known and the representative signs a receipt of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 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

Provisions relating to the One-Stop delivery system are at sections 121, 134(c), 189(c) of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2841, 2864(c), 2939(c); Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(d) and (e) and Department of Labor Appropriations Act for 2002 [Pub. L. 107-116]. Regulations governing the Workforce Investment Act are at 20 CFR parts 652, 660-671, (65 FR 49294 (August 11, 2000)).

Part III. Background

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) establishes comprehensive reform of existing Federal job training programs with amendments impacting service delivery under the Wagner-Peyser Act, Adult Education and Literacy Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. WIA also repeals and supersedes the Job Training Partnership Act. A number of other Federal programs are also identified as required partners in the One-Stop delivery system in order to provide comprehensive services for all Americans to access the information and resources available to assist them in the development and implementation of their career goals. The intention of the One-Stop system is to establish programs and employment service providers in co-located and integrated settings that are accessible for individuals and businesses alike in approximately 600 workforce

investment areas established throughout the nation.

WIA establishes State and Local Workforce Investment Boards focused on strategic planning, policy development, and oversight of the workforce system with significant authority for the Governor and chief elected officials in local areas to build on existing reforms in order to implement innovative and comprehensive workforce investment systems. Recognizing that many One-Stop delivery systems may not currently have the capacity to provide comprehensive services to people with disabilities, the Work Incentive Grant is designed to provide seed monies to support the development of the One-Stop infrastructure with an objective of achieving model, seamless and comprehensive services for people with disabilities.

Many people with disabilities are looking to the new workforce investment system to address their employment and training needs in a progressive, enlightened environment with cutting-edge technologies. They also expect the One-Stop delivery system to provide comprehensive services to meet multiple barriers, which frequently limit their access to a productive, economically rewarding work life. These services may include, but are not limited to, the availability of basic skill development; vocational skill training or advanced educational opportunities; apprenticeship and entrepreneurial training; transportation assistance to reach training or employment sites; housing assistance or advice on retaining existing housing upon employment; and access to medical health coverage upon employment. Twenty-three Work Incentive Grants were awarded at the end of October 2000 for a thirty-month period. A second round of Work Incentive Grants were awarded in May 2002 for a twenty-four month period. If you would like more information on round one and two Work Incentive Grant awards, please go to <http://wdsc.doleta.gov/disability/>.

This Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) is for grant awards for the Work Incentive Grant program with funds made available July 1, 2002, under the DOL Fiscal Year 2002 appropriation. The Work Incentive Grant program is consistent with the objectives of the President's New Freedom Initiative. This year's Work Incentive Grant announcement continues an emphasis on addressing infrastructure inadequacies and programmatic access of the One-Stop system for people with disabilities,

including grant funds available for procuring assistive technology. Statement of Work criteria continues an emphasis on support for staffing capacity but with additional language that is *modeled on* a joint ETA/SSA Disability Program Navigator initiative that will soon be piloted in several states. For more information on the Navigator initiative, please go to: <http://wdsc.doleta.gov/disability/>.

Part IV. Funding Availability and Period of Performance

The Department of Labor anticipates awarding approximately 20-40 grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$700,000. Awards to one or more local Workforce Investment Boards will generally be limited to no more than \$300,000. Awards to state-wide grantees (including a single local Workforce Investment area State) will generally be limited to no more than \$700,000. Awards to current Work Incentive Grantees that submit proposals under this SGA will be limited to \$150,000 for one or more local Workforce Investment Boards and \$500,000 to state-wide grant proposals. The period of performance will be approximately 24 months from the date of execution by the Department. The grant funds will be available for expenditure until June 30, 2005. The Department may elect to extend these grants based on the availability of new funds and satisfactory performance; but in no case may the FY 2002 Work Incentive Grant funds made available under this notice be expended after June 30, 2005.

Part V. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are state departments of labor or applicable state entity administering the Wagner-Peyser and Title I Workforce Investment Act programs; state level Workforce Investment Boards; an individual local Workforce Investment Board; or several local Workforce Investment Boards applying jointly.

The Department of Labor encourages applicants to work in partnership with other disability-related public and private organizations. Partners may include: state/local public agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation; State Councils for Independent Living; local Centers for Independent Living (CIL's); state mental health agencies, state mental retardation and Developmental Disability Councils; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies; and private, non-profit organizations such as disability advocacy and provider organizations, federally-funded disability grant entities, including faith-based entities,