

H.R. 5656, see Title I, "Departmental Management") 29 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*; 5 U.S.C. 301; and Executive Order 13187, "The President's Disability Employment Partnership Board (PDEPB) (January 10, 2001).

This service, and the data collection component is authorized pursuant to Pub. L. 106-554 which direct the Office of Disability Policy to provides initiatives such as EARN to "further the objective of eliminating employment barriers to the training and employment of people with disabilities".

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Action

This proposed ICR covers four forms: EARN Provider Enrollment Form, EARN Employer Enrollment Form, EARN Employer Survey and EARN Provider Survey. The enrollment forms (Employer Enrollment and Provider Enrollment) will be used to enroll provider and employers who wish to participate and use this service. The surveys (Employer Survey and Provider Survey) will collect quantitative data on participants' levels of satisfaction with individual service elements and their satisfaction with the service as a whole. The surveys will also solicit free-text comments from participants regarding the service.

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Titles: EARN Provider Enrollment Form, EARN Employer Enrollment Form, EARN Employer Survey, EARN Provider Survey.

OMB Number:

Frequency: Once.

Affected Public: Participating Employer and Service Providers.

Number of Respondents: EARN Provider Enrollment Form—6,000, EARN Employer Enrollment Form—7,500, EARN Employer Survey—300, EARN Provider Survey—300.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: EARN Provider Enrollment Form—20 minutes, EARN Employer Enrollment Form—20 minutes, EARN Employer Survey—20 minutes, EARN Provider Survey—20 minutes.

Total Burden Hours:

EARN Provider Enrollment Form—1,980 hours, EARN Employer Enrollment Form—2,475 hours, EARN Employer Survey—100 hours, EARN Provider Survey—100 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0 for all.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): 0 for all.

Description: These surveys are designed to collect data from service providers and employers. For each provider, we will collect Point of Contact (POC) information and information about the types of clients the provider serves. We also request information about the size of the provider organization, whether a fee is charged for placement services, and employer references. For each employer, we will collect information about the number of employees, geographic location, industry, specific jobs offered, and Point of Contact (POC) information. The Employer Survey and Provider Survey will collect quantitative data on participants' levels of satisfaction with individual service elements and their satisfaction with the service as a whole. The surveys will also solicit free-text comments from participants regarding the service. We will present survey data in the aggregate for all Employers and Providers. We will combine survey data with system-generated data reports containing demographic data for the sample groups as well as performance data for the Call Center.

Signed at Washington, DC this 9th day of November, 2001.

William J. Mea,

Deputy Assistant Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 6, 2001.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of each individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor. To obtain documentation contact Marlene Howze at (202) 693-4158 or E-mail Howze-Marlene@dol.gov.

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for BLS, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 ((202) 395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- * Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- * Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- * Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Title: BLS/OSHS Federal/State Cooperative Agreement (Application Package).

OMB Number: 1220-0149.

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 57.

Number of Annual Responses: 285.

Estimated Time Per Response and Total Burden Hours:

Form	Annual re-sponses	Average burden (in hrs.)	
		Per re-sponse	Annually
Work Statements BLS-OSHS2	1 4	2 1	2 4
Totals	5		6

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: \$0.

Total Annual Costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$0.

Description: The Bureau of Labor Statistics signs cooperative agreements with states, and political subdivisions thereof, to assist them in developing and administering programs that deal with Occupational safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) and to arrange through these agreements for research to further the objectives of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The OSHS Cooperative Agreement (CA) is the vehicle through which State Agencies are awarded funds.

Federal regional and national office staffs use information collected under the CA in order to carry out their fiduciary responsibilities to negotiate the CA funding levels with the State Agencies, to monitor their financial and programmatic performance, and to monitor their adherence to administrative requirements, which are imposed by 29 CFR part 967 and other grants-management-related regulations.

Ira L. Mills,

DOL Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

[SGA No. DFA 02-102]

H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications (SGA). This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), announces the availability of grant funds for skills training programs for unemployed and employed workers. These grants are financed by a user fee paid by employers to bring foreign workers into

the U.S. under a new H-1B nonimmigrant visa or at visa renewal. As part of the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program, this skills training program was authorized under the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), as amended. The grants are intended to be a long-term solution to domestic skill shortages in high skill and high technology occupations. Grant awards will be made only to the extent that funds are available. Section 414(c) of ACWIA as amended, (Pub. L. 106-313; 114 Stat. 1257, 29 USC 2916a(2)(A)(ii)) specifies that the Secretary of Labor shall award 25 percent of the grants under these provisions for demonstration projects or programs under section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 USC 2916) to partnerships that shall consist of at least two businesses or a business-related nonprofit organization that represents more than one business, and that may include any educational, labor, community organization, or workforce investment board, except that such grant funds may be used only to carry out a strategy that would otherwise not be eligible for funds provided through workforce investment boards under H-1b technical Skills Training Grants announced in the **Federal Register** on April 13, 2001 (66 FR 19209), due to barriers in meeting those partnership eligibility criteria, on a national, multi-state, regional, or rural area (such as rural telework programs) basis. Community organizations may include faith-based organizations. Grants will be distributed fairly across rural and urban areas and across geographic regions.

This solicitation describes the application submission requirements, the process that eligible entities must use to apply for funds covered by this solicitation, and how grantees will be selected. This solicitation is the first in a series to fund grants to business partnerships or business-related non-profits.

Approximately \$20 million will be available for funding projects under in this solicitation, with six to 16 projects to be selected for funding. The maximum award of each grant will not exceed \$3 million. It is anticipated that an additional \$16 million will be available for funding projects covered in the 25% of this year's funding through the competitive process for a total \$36 million committed to this effort.

DATES: Applications for grant awards will be accepted commencing immediately. The closing date for receipt of applications shall be February

12, 2002, at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the address below.

ADDRESSES: Applications will be mailed to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Federal Assistance, Attention: Ella Freeman, SGA/DFA 02-102, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4203, Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be faxed to Ella Freeman, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance, Fax (202) 693-2879. This is not a toll free number. All inquiries should include the SGA number (DFA 02-102) and a contact name, fax and phone number. This solicitation will also be published on the Internet on the Employment and Training Administration's Homepage at <http://www.doleta.gov>. Award notifications will also be published on this Homepage.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), announces the availability of grant funds for skill training programs for unemployed and employed workers. These grants are financed by a user fee paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the U.S. under a new H-1B nonimmigrant visa or at visa renewal. As part of the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program, this skills training program was authorized under the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 ("the Act"), as amended. The grants are intended to be a long-term solution to domestic skill shortages in high skill and high technology occupations.

The Act creates two separate grant programs. Seventy-five (75%) percent of the available grant funds will be awarded to Local Workforce Investment Boards (Local Boards) established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 USC 2832), or regional consortia of Local Boards. Regional consortia of boards may be interstate. Each Local Board or consortium of boards receiving grant funds must represent a local or regional public-private partnership that is comprised of at least: (i) One Local Board; (ii) one business or business-related non-profit organization such as a trade association; and (iii) one community-based organization or higher education institution or labor union. Community organizations may include faith-based organizations that will carry out such programs or projects through the One-Stop delivery systems