

Analysis

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Federal Grant Application for Apprenticeship

Analyst: Doug Wilson

Request: Approve a request for the authority to apply for a federal U.S. Department of Labor State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grant in the amount of \$3,999,999.

Analysis: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is requesting authority to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration for \$3,999,999. This State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grant is for to expanding and promoting diversity and equity while increasing apprenticeships. The grant period is from July 2021 through June 2025.

The funds would be used for grants to organizations with experience and capacity in providing these services. Grant funds will also be used for state and local staff time for conducting grant oversight and monitoring, reporting and project management. HECC is coordinating with BOLI, the Employment Department and the Oregon Department of Education for this grant. Under the grant, Oregon must provide 500 apprentices in Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). Construction, healthcare and information technology industries will be targeted. Allowable uses of this federal grant include activities related to establishing or expanding existing RAPs, development of new RAPs, and wrap-around and supportive services to eligible participants. Participants must not have been enrolled in a RAP.

There is no state match or maintenance of effort requirement for this grant. This is similar to other grants HECC is administering but the diversity aspect of it is new. HECC says it will need two positions to administer the grant and provide technical assistance. Applications are due April 26th and an award announcement should be made prior to June 30th.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission Brickman

Request: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is requesting authority to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) in the amount of \$3,999,999 for increasing apprenticeship opportunities in Oregon.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) received notice of a State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity, and Innovation Grant (SAEEI) to support Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). The purpose of these SAEEI grants is to support state activities to adopt, expand, and promote diversity, equity and inclusion efforts as a key statewide strategy in registered apprenticeship expansion efforts. The grant's aim is to achieve the following goals: 1) System expansion to support the development, modernization, and diversification of RAPs; 2) Partnership and alignment to support workforce system integration; 3) Increasing the number of apprentices enrolled in RAPs, including underrepresented populations; and 4) Innovation in program development and recruitment strategies.

The grant will support a multi-agency approach to increasing apprenticeship opportunities in Oregon. The long-term goal of which is to expand RAPs beyond the traditional trades and to diversify participants. The state has received prior grants related to this program and this round will allow the expansion of certain occupations within the industries allowed under the grant. Those industries are Information Technology, Construction, and Healthcare (including behavioral health).

If the grant is awarded, HECC will be the receiving fiscal agent and will work with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, the Oregon Employment Department, and the Oregon Department of Education to carry out the grant activities. Grant funds will be distributed as "sub-awards to entities that have the capacity and experience to service participants." To ensure the grant meets its stated goals and outcomes, the USDOL has established thresholds for the minimum number of individuals to be newly enrolled in a RAP during the period of performance, based on the amount of funds requested by the applicant. The grant application for \$3,999,999 requires a minimum number of 500 individuals to be newly enrolled in a RAP for this grant. The period of performance for the grant is 48 months with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2021. The grant application is due on April 26, 2021. If the state is successful in receiving the grant, expenditure limitation will need to be included in the participating agencies 2021-23 biennium budget.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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April 15, 2021

The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Nature of Request

The Higher Education Coordination Commission (HECC) respectfully requests permission to apply for U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation Grant funding of \$3,999,999. The funding opportunity was announced on March 17, 2021 and is available through Funding Opportunity Announcement FOA-ETA-21-07. The application is due on April 26, 2021 and the grant period is July 1, 2021-June 30, 2025.

The purpose of the grant is to expand and promote diversity, equity and inclusion efforts while increasing apprenticeship opportunities in the state. Grant funds will be used to make sub-awards to entities that have the capacity and experience to serve participants. Grant funds will also be used for staff time to conduct grant oversight and monitoring, quarterly reporting and project management at both the state and local levels.

Agency Action

HECC is partnering with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Apprenticeship and Training Division, the Oregon Employment Department and the Oregon Department of Education to carry out the grant activities. Grant activities will focus on system alignment between education and workforce partners and diversifying apprenticeship by expanding access to underserved populations. Under the grant, Oregon is required to serve 500 apprentices in registered apprenticeship programs. Industries that will be targeted include construction, healthcare and information technology.

Action Requested

HECC respectfully asks the Joint Committee on Ways & Means to approve the request to apply for these grant funds in the amount of \$3,999,999. The HECC Office of Workforce Investments will be administering the grant and has identified staff to coordinate the application process and provide project and grant management. The HECC is currently managing 4 federal apprenticeship grants totaling \$4.9 million. There is no state match or maintenance of effort requirement as part of the grant funds. HECC is requesting two positions – 1.0 FTE OPA4 and 1.0 FTE PA2 that will perform the grant management activities including reporting, monitoring and technical assistance.



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The Commission requests approval to apply for this grant. Please contact me at 503-689-6548 or ben.cannon@state.or.us if you have any questions.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Attachment: FOA-ETA-21-07