

SSB 5713 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 04/10/2017

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
4 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise.

6 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

7 (2) "Eligible applicant" means any government entity or any
8 nongovernment entity, association, or organization that is not a
9 private vocational school, that:

10 (a) Offers, or plans to offer, a skilled worker awareness
11 program; and

12 (b) Has partnered with industry to either offer or fund a skilled
13 worker awareness program.

14 (3) "Grant program" means the skilled worker outreach,
15 recruitment, and career awareness grant program.

16 (4) "Grant review committee" means the skilled worker outreach,
17 recruitment, and career awareness grant program review committee
18 created in section 5 of this act.

19 (5) "Matching grant" means a grant funded by the state to match
20 funding provided by an eligible applicant to support efforts to
21 increase the state's skilled workforce.

22 (6) "Skilled worker awareness program" means a program designed
23 to increase awareness of, and enrollment in, accredited educational,
24 occupational, state-approved preapprenticeship, apprenticeship, and
25 similar training programs that: (a) Train individuals to perform
26 skills needed in the workforce; and (b) award industry or state-
27 recognized certificates, credentials, associate degrees, professional
28 licenses, or similar evidence of achievement but not including
29 bachelor's or higher degrees.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
31 appropriated for this specific purpose, the skilled worker outreach,
32 recruitment, and career awareness grant program is created. The

1 purpose of the grant program is to increase the state's skilled
2 workforce by raising awareness of the state's worker training
3 programs.

4 (2)(a) Under the grant program, the department must award
5 matching grants to eligible applicants that will engage in outreach
6 and recruiting efforts to increase enrollment in and completion of
7 worker training programs.

8 (b) Recipients of the grant must provide matching cash funding.
9 The recipient's match must be two dollars for each one dollar of the
10 grant. The recipient's match may not be in the form of in-kind
11 contributions.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall administer the
13 grant program and establish a process for accepting grant
14 applications, including application guidelines and deadlines.

15 (2) By January 1, 2018, and annually no later than January 1st
16 thereafter, the department shall start accepting grant applications.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) To be considered for a matching grant,
18 an eligible applicant must include, at a minimum, the following
19 information in its application:

20 (a) A description of how the matching grant will be used to
21 provide outreach, education, and recruitment for training programs;

22 (b) A description of the training programs the applicant plans to
23 promote, the particular skills taught by that training program, and
24 the number of years the training program has been in operation;

25 (c) Past, current, and projected enrollment in the training
26 program the applicant plans to promote and the estimated increases in
27 enrollment, if the training program has been in existence;

28 (d) If the applicant is promoting an existing training program, a
29 comparison of the number of participants who enroll in the training
30 program and the number of participants who complete the program over
31 a five-year period, if available;

32 (e) Specific industry needs or gaps in the workforce that the
33 training program will or does address;

34 (f) A description of intended or existing partnerships with
35 industry members, including those where training program participants
36 will have the opportunity to earn income or credit hours;

37 (g) Costs or the anticipated costs to implement the skilled
38 worker awareness program;

1 (h) Resources that the eligible applicant will commit in matching
2 dollars and, if the applicant already has a skilled worker awareness
3 program, existing resources that the applicant has invested in
4 recruiting, outreach, and funding of its skilled worker awareness
5 program; and

6 (i) Any other information the department requires.

7 (2) Upon receipt of an application that satisfies the
8 requirements in this section, the department must send the
9 application to the grant review committee for its consideration.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department must establish a grant
11 review committee to review grant applications and make
12 recommendations on who should receive a matching grant and the
13 amount. The grant review committee must consist of eleven members
14 with representatives from the following:

15 (a) The department of labor and industries;

16 (b) The employment security department;

17 (c) The department of enterprise services;

18 (d) The workforce training and education coordinating board;

19 (e) The state board for community and technical colleges;

20 (f) Two representatives from business;

21 (g) Two representatives from labor; and

22 (h) Two representatives from the Washington apprenticeship and
23 training council.

24 (2) The grant review committee shall designate a chair to oversee
25 the committee's meetings.

26 (3) The grant review committee shall establish criteria for
27 ranking eligible applicants for matching grant awards. The grant
28 review committee shall consider and rank eligible applicants based on
29 which applicants currently are able to or have the best potential to:

30 (a) Reach a broad diverse audience, including populations with
31 barriers as identified in the state's comprehensive workforce
32 training and education plan, through their recruitment and outreach
33 efforts;

34 (b) Collaborate with and utilize centers of excellence within the
35 community and technical college system;

36 (c) Significantly increase enrollment and completion of the
37 training program the applicant plans to promote;

38 (d) Fill existing needs for skilled workers in the market; and

1 (e) Demonstrate the following, prioritized in the following
2 order:

3 (i) That the eligible applicant will provide monetary
4 contributions from its own resources; and

5 (ii) That the eligible applicant has secured:

6 (A) An industry partner; or

7 (B) Monetary contributions from an industry partner, conditional
8 job placement guarantees, or articulation agreements.

9 (4) The grant review committee shall submit its recommendations
10 to the director of the department, who shall determine to whom and in
11 what amounts to award matching grants. Matching grants must be
12 awarded no later than April 1st each year following the application
13 submittal deadline.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Grant recipients may not use matching
15 grants for tuition subsidies or to reduce tuition for any training
16 program.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Each eligible applicant that receives
18 a matching grant shall submit a quarterly report and an annual report
19 to the grant review committee on the outcomes achieved. The grant
20 recipient shall include in the report at least the following
21 measurable outcomes:

22 (a) The manner in which the grant recipient has used the matching
23 grant for outreach and recruitment;

24 (b) The number of participants enrolled in and the number of
25 participants who completed the training program being promoted, both
26 before the matching grant was awarded and since the matching grant
27 was received;

28 (c) The number of participants who obtained employment in an
29 industry for which the participant was trained under the training
30 program promoted by the recipient, including information about the
31 industry in which the participants are employed;

32 (d) The number of participants recruited; and

33 (e) Any other information the grant review committee determines
34 appropriate.

35 (2) By December 1, 2019, and by each December 1st thereafter, the
36 grant review committee shall submit an annual report to the governor
37 and appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance with the
38 reporting requirements in RCW 43.01.036. The report must include:

1 (a) The number of matching grants awarded in the prior year,
2 including the amount, recipient, and duration of each matching grant;

3 (b) The number of individuals who enrolled in and completed
4 training programs promoted by each grant recipient;

5 (c) The number of individuals who obtained employment in a
6 position that uses the skills for which they were trained through a
7 training program promoted by a grant recipient; and

8 (d) Other information obtained from grant recipients' reports
9 under subsection (1) of this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** To assist with implementation of the grant
11 program, the department, in coordination with the workforce training
12 and education coordinating board and the workforce training customer
13 advisory committee, shall coordinate skilled worker awareness
14 programs throughout the state. The coordination must include:

15 (1) Partnering with industry associations, labor-management
16 programs, and businesses to assess and determine their workforce
17 needs; and

18 (2) Coordinating with training program providers on skill sets
19 being developed and the quality of students being trained.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The skilled worker outreach, recruitment,
21 and career awareness grant program account is created in the custody
22 of the state treasurer. The department shall deposit in the account
23 all money received for the program. The account shall be self-
24 sustaining and consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for
25 the skilled worker outreach, recruitment, and career awareness grant
26 program and private contributions to the program. Expenditures from
27 the account shall only be used for matching grants provided to grant
28 recipients. Only the director of the department or the director's
29 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
30 subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
31 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This chapter expires July 1, 2022.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act
34 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW."

35 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes the following changes:

Modifies definitions and other provisions to clarify that the grant program is to fund outreach and awareness of training programs.

Provides that private vocational schools may not be eligible applicants.

Codifies the program under the chapter governing the Department of Commerce, rather than under the Workforce Training Board.

Requires that recipients match the grant funds at a rate of two dollars for every one dollar of the grant, and requires the match to be monetary, rather than "in-kind" contributions.

Adds to the list of criteria the grant review committee must consider when ranking applicants: (1) The applicant's potential to reach an audience that includes populations with barriers to employment, as identified by the state's strategic workforce plan; and (2) the applicant's collaboration with and utilization of Centers of Excellence.

Requires the Department to coordinate with the Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee (in addition to the Workforce Training Board) to coordinate skilled worker awareness programs in the state.

Removes provisions requiring an assessment of current and future workforce needs.

Expires the program July 1, 2022.

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