

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.107

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Board Chairs
Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: January 12, 2016

Subject: Strengthening Working Families Initiative - Funding Opportunity

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce development partners of Funding Opportunity [FOA-ETA-16-05](#), Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) Grant, announced through the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) December 17, 2015.

Background: The U.S. DOL ETA announces the availability of approximately \$25 million in grant funds. As education and earnings are strongly linked, this FOA supports providing access to education and training to help move parents along a career pathway that will lead to better paying jobs.

Funding Opportunity Number: FOA-ETA-16-05
Application Deadline: March 16, 2016
Expected Number of Awards: 10
Award Ceiling: \$4,000,000
Period of Performance: 48 months
Required Partners (4): Workforce Entities, Education & Training Providers, Business Entities and Child Care and Other Early Childhood Education Services

This FOA also encourages applicants to develop an approach that provides skills training leading to family-supporting jobs for low- to middle-skilled parents while simultaneously developing and implementing a plan for the applicant's community or region that helps families better navigate the existing complex systems of supportive services, including increased access to child care.

The Department is interested in supporting evidence-based strategies or innovations based on these models that remove a range of barriers to training, including child care and other needs that working families face, by investing in education and skills training in combination with customized participant supportive services. Of particular interest are new promising ideas developed through human centered design methodology and behavioral insight research.

Program strategies must include moving lower- to middle-skilled individuals into middle- to high-skilled jobs, with the goals of increasing family-supporting wages and enabling the success of the parent. In particular, the Department is interested in supporting parents who face a barrier to training, including child care and other participant supportive service needs, and are in need of increasing skills and competencies that will either prepare them for entry into an H-1B-aligned career pathway or advancement along an H-1B-aligned career pathway and into middle- or high-skilled jobs.

The SWFI grants will provide the platform for strengthening partnerships between systems (workforce training providers and child care providers) to ensure consistency in care and flexibility in services. To support these efforts, applicants are required to leverage cash or in-kind resources amounting to at least 25 percent of the total award.

Inquiries: Please email all questions to Diane Hurley at dhurley@detma.org. Also, indicate Issuance number and description.