



Ohio Skills Bank
Accepting Workforce Innovation Solutions Project Proposals

The Ohio Skills Bank is the information resource that connects education and training to the jobs that will secure Ohio's future. Educators and workforce professionals work closely with Ohio employers to ensure that the state's public universities, community colleges, and adult career centers provide curriculum, programs and training aligned with industry demand. Its role in the state's workforce development efforts is to help the University System of Ohio seamlessly link education, talent development, and the needs of business as our educational institutions become demand-driven engines of economic development.

Background

Daily headlines highlight employer frustrations at their inability to hire skilled workers. Recent research studies confirm there is a significant disparity between the skills possessed by the existing workforce and those needed by employers. Even in this time of high unemployment, there is an imbalance between workforce supply and employer demand. Addressing this imbalance or gap is critical to a recovering economy and the purpose of the Ohio Skills Bank. It is with this backdrop that the University System of Ohio, along with the Ohio Department of Development and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services partners, will launch this request for Workforce Innovation Solutions.

Invitation

Informal or formal groups of businesses are invited to partner with University System of Ohio institutions (adult career centers, community colleges, and universities) to develop and implement a strategy to improve workforce skills and develop the talent that businesses need.

- Funding is available through June 2011.
- Funding decisions will be made as project plans are submitted and reviewed.
- Project plans that can be implemented quickly will receive priority.

Opportunity

The current economic climate and the wealth of resources (human capital) available in the recently unemployed population may create an opportunity to address skills gaps more quickly than in times of lower unemployment. The desired outcome is to use this grant opportunity to produce long-term systemic change. Therefore, it is important to describe business engagement and willingness to sustain the initiative beyond this initial funding.

The existing Ohio Skills Bank infrastructure will be used to provide data support (to document existing or future workforce skills gaps), project review, and prioritization.

Regional decision making groups have been created and will be facilitated by the Ohio Skills Bank administrators. These regional decision making groups will review proposals that should target the strategic industries that have been identified through the Ohio Skills Bank process. Proposals should be submitted to the regional Ohio Skills Bank administrator in your region. A list of Ohio Skills Bank administrators is provided in Attachment B. Projects will be prioritized based on the significance of the project to the regional economy and the sustainability model. A state panel will make the final decision regarding funding.



Legal

The applicant understands that if its application is accepted by the State the applicant shall enter into an agreement with the State governing the use of the awarded funds.

The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in the conduct of the work hereunder.

The State reserves the right to fund any application in full or in part, to request additional information to assist in the review process, to require new applications from interested parties, to reject any or all applications responding to this announcement, or to re-issue the announcement if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the State of Ohio. Issuing this announcement does not bind the State to making any awards. The State reserves the right to adjust the dates for this announcement for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate. The State reserves the right to waive any non-substantive infractions made by an applicant, provided that the applicant cures such infraction upon request.

All costs incurred in preparation of an application shall be borne by the applicant. Application preparation costs are not recoverable under an award. The State of Ohio shall not contribute in any way to recovering the costs of application preparation.

The funding decisions are final. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application(s) at the conclusion of the review process.

The applicant understands that the information provided herein is intended solely to assist the applicant in submittal preparation. To the best of the State's knowledge, the information provided is accurate. However, the State does not warrant such accuracy, and any errors or omissions subsequently determined will not be construed as a basis for invalidating this solicitation. Interested parties bear the sole responsibility of obtaining the necessary information to submit a qualifying application. The State retains the right to modify or withdraw this solicitation at any time. By submitting an application, applicants expressly agree to these terms.

Glossary

Strategic industries: Documented high growth industries, with sustainable wages that are important to the regional and/or state economies.

Documented Skills Gap: The difference between the post secondary credentials that employers need and those possessed by individuals in the labor market that has been documented through data analysis and employer engagement.

Ohio Skills Bank Administrator: A regional change agent charged with facilitating communications between businesses and the University System of Ohio concerning skills gaps and employer needs.

Regional Decision Making Group: An employer led regional group which utilizes data to determine and prioritize employer needs and the initiatives that may address such needs.

State Workforce Partnerships: Partnerships for strategic industries among the lead state agencies charged with addressing the business and human capital needs of Ohio's employers.

For More Information

Please contact your Ohio Skills Bank Regional Administrator (see Attachment B below). Contact information can also be found on the Ohio Skills Bank website at: <http://uso.edu/opportunities/ohioskillsbank/index.php> under the Map and Contact List link



Attachment A

CRITERIA SCORING SHEET

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Project Assessment

Total Points: 300 points can be allocated to each project

1. Significance to the regional economy		50 points
a. Earnings per worker of those in the occupation for which the proposal is preparing new or unskilled workers.	20 points	
b. Industry's location quotient. If not known, then define the industry in your proposal narrative using the North American Industrial Classification Code – http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2007 The Ohio Skills Bank team will provide the location quotient.	15 points	
c. Industry jobs multiplier. If not known, please use the Standard Occupational Classification system -- http://www.bls.gov/soc/2000/soc_majo.htm -- to define the primary occupation that is the focus of the proposal, and the jobs multiplier will be provided by Ohio Skills Bank team.	15 points	
2. Industry demand		80 points
a. Total current and total 5-year (2015) forecasted employment in the industry. If not known, this data can be added by the Ohio Skills Bank team	15 points	
b. Forecasted new jobs that the proposed workforce solution will lead to	15 points	
c. Addressing existing or pending industry-level workforce training gaps	50 points	
3. Presence of a champion and industry support		50 points
4. Leveraged Resources from employers, business associations, and education/training institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Leveraged Resources, i.e. Workforce Investment Act funds, Economic Development grants, etc. 		30 points 25 points
5. Infrastructure Costs Requested (such as training facilities, equipment, and administrative costs). The less funds requested for this, the more points awarded		30 points
6. Discretionary Factors		35 points
Grand Total		300 points



Attachment B

OSB ADMINISTRATORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Region 1 - Central Ohio

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Region 2 - Northwest Ohio

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Region 3 - West Central Ohio

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Region 4 - Southwest Central Ohio

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Region 5 - Southwest Ohio

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Region 6 - North Central Ohio

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Region 8 - Northern Ohio

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Region 8 (cont'd)

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Region 10 - East Central Ohio

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Region 11 - Southeast Ohio

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Region 12 - Northeast Ohio

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