H-1B Technical Skills Training Projects Awarded
To Connecticut’s Workforce Investment Boards

Overview

The H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants were competitively awarded by the United States Department of Labor to provide education, training and job placement assistance related to high-growth fields in which employers are currently using the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program to hire foreign workers; such as advanced manufacturing, energy, health care and information technology. Grants are funded through fees paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the United States under the H-1B program. The grants are intended to raise the technical skill levels of Connecticut workers and, over time, help businesses reduce their need to use the H-1B program. The grants were awarded competitively, and it is unique that all five of Connecticut’s Workforce Investment Boards received grants.

Investment

A total of $342 million was awarded nationally by USDOL and Connecticut’s share of the grant dollars going to the Workforce Investment Boards totals $19,856,170. In addition, resources were leveraged from the Boards and their partners totaling over $10 million.

Target Industries

The Workforce Investment Boards will lead projects that will train, place, and provide support to individuals seeking careers in health care, information technology, engineering, and advanced manufacturing industries.

Number Served

The projects are generally four years in duration. Over the life of the grant, the state will serve a total of 1,172 individuals. Grants differ in target populations, ranging from long-term unemployed, veterans, incumbent workers, and older workers.

Partners

All of the projects involve extensive collaborations. Major partners include the respective community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, industry/trade associations, employers, organized labor, community based organizations and economic development commissions.