

United States Department of Labor

Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez

News Release

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Nearly \$170M in Ready to Work Partnership grants awarded to help long-term unemployed Americans find work

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor today announced \$169,771,960 in grants to expedite the employment of Americans struggling with long-term unemployment. The grants are part of the [Ready to Work Partnership](#) initiative to support and scale innovative collaborations between employers, nonprofit organizations and federal job training programs to help connect ready-to-work Americans with ready-to-be-filled jobs.

"There's no question that individuals struggling with long-term unemployment are better off than they were 12 months ago, but there are still twice as many of them as there were before the recession. The constant struggle to find work has left many of them feeling discouraged and disregarded," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "The federal grants we're awarding today are part of a series of administration initiatives designed to help encourage, empower and employ this pool of talented individuals."

These grants are part of an [administration-wide effort](#) to address the ongoing issue of long-term unemployment. Secretary Perez and Jeff Zients, director of the National Economic Council, will meet with chief human resource officers of leading companies, including Citigroup Inc., CVS Caremark Corp., The Boeing Co. and Dow Chemical Co., among others, during a roundtable discussion hosted at the White House on Wednesday, Oct. 15, to discuss improvements these companies have made to increase recruitment of and eliminate barriers to hiring long-term unemployed individuals. The Office of Personnel Management will also issue guidance today to federal agencies on increasing recruitment and hiring of long-term unemployed individuals.

Grants, ranging from \$3 million to \$10 million, were awarded to 23 partnerships to serve individuals in 20 states and Puerto Rico. Three grantees — District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund (Pennsylvania), Memphis Bioworks Foundation (Tennessee) and Worksystems Inc. (Oregon) — will support projects in multiple states.

All grants funded today will incorporate three primary functions:

1. [Outreach and Recruitment](#)

Grantees will work with state unemployment insurance programs, the network of more than 2,500 [American Job Centers](#) around the country, community and faith-based organizations, job clubs and other worker advocate organizations to identify and recruit participants in need of training and supportive services.

2. [Training and Support Services](#)

Participants in programs funded by these grants will receive job training and support services for occupations in information technology, advanced manufacturing, health care and other high-demand industries. Participants will receive a comprehensive, up-front assessment of their needs and skills resulting in customized classroom and online training that will lead them to an industry-recognized degree or certificate. Participants will also receive financial counseling, child-care support, health care and other services to help them focus on finding a job.

All of the grantees have also demonstrated strong partnerships with local employers and industry groups that offer work-based training opportunities, such as paid internships, on-the-job training or [Registered Apprenticeships](#). Work-based training will allow long-term unemployed individuals to fill in gaps of employment in their resumes, gain first-hand experience with an employer and establish a direct link to permanent employment.

3. [Placement Strategies](#)

All projects incorporate strong placement strategies to support long-term unemployed workers in finding rapid employment in middle- and high- skilled jobs. These projects will include a designated career coach to guide long-term unemployed individuals from the assessment period all the way to job placement.

Services will include resume consultation, networking coaching, social media strategies and mock interview with employers. In addition, many projects include commitments from employers to hire or interview program participants following their completion of a work-based training program.

The goals of the Ready to Work Partnership initiative are closely aligned with the Obama administration's [job-driven training principles](#). Grantees will work with local and regional employers, industry groups and their state commerce and development agencies to strengthen public-private partnerships. In addition, all grants require an evaluation component that will help significantly increase the body of knowledge about the most effective strategies in workforce development.

The original grants solicitation announced funding of up to \$150 million for this program. However, additional H-1B funding was made available, which allowed for approximately \$20 million more to be awarded.

Editor's Note: A full list of grantees and grant amounts follows this release.

Ready To Work Partnership Grant Awardees

Grantee	City	State	Areas Served	Grant Amount
Jewish Vocational Service	San Francisco	Calif.	Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties	\$6,396,276
NOVA Workforce Development	Sunnyvale	Calif.	Silicon Valley	\$5,293,884
Denver Office of Economic Development	Denver	Colo.	Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa and Weld counties	\$6,172,569

Capital Workforce Partners	Hartford	Conn.	Hartford County	\$6,695,685
Workforce Alliance Inc.	New Haven	Conn.	New Haven, New London, Tolland, Windham and portions of Fairfield and Middlesex counties	\$5,490,000
CareerSource North Central Florida	Gainesville	Fla.	Alachua, Bradford, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Flagler and Volusia counties	\$10,000,000
Florida State College at Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Fla.	Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, Yulee, Fernandina Beach and Hilliard	\$3,053,461
EmployIndy	Indianapolis	Ind.	Indianapolis and Marion counties	\$8,364,602
West Central Indiana Region 4 Workforce Investment Board	Lafayette	Ind.	Benton, Cass, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White counties	\$7,592,924
Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation	Millersville	Md.	Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties	\$9,995,047
Nebraska Department of Labor	Lincoln	Neb.	Omaha Metropolitan Area	\$9,162,680
New Jersey Council of County Colleges	Trenton	N.J.	State of New Jersey	\$10,000,000
RochesterWorks Inc.	Rochester	N.Y.	Rochester, Greece, Canandaigua, Geneva and Batavia	\$9,868,337
Westchester-Putnam Local Workforce Investment Board	White Plains	N.Y.	Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland and Orange counties	\$5,189,848
WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.	Fremont	Ohio	State of Ohio	\$6,122,500
It's My Community Initiative Inc.	Oklahoma City	Okla.	State of Oklahoma	\$10,000,000
Worksystems Inc.	Portland	Ore.	Oregon: Banks, Barlow, Beaverton, Canby, Cornelius, Damascus, Durham, Estacada, Fairview, Forest Grove, Gaston, Gladstone, Gresham, Happy Valley, Hillsboro, Johnson City, King City, Lake Oswego, Maywood Park, Milwaukie, Molalla, North Plains, Oregon City, Portland, Rivergrove, Sandy, Sherwood, Tigard, Troutdale, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville and Wood Village Washington: Battle Ground, Camas, Castle Rock, Cathlamet, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, Woodland and Yacolt	\$8,455,004
District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund	Philadelphia	Pa.	Pennsylvania: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties New Jersey: Burlington and Camden counties Delaware: New Castle County	\$3,998,181
Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor	Mayaguez	P.R.	Aguada, Aguadilla, Anasco, Moca, Rincón, Cabo Rojo, Lajas, Hormigueros, Maricao, Las Marías, Mayaguez, San German, Sabana Grande, Isabela, Guánica, Quebradillas and San Sebastián	\$7,026,880
Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston	Providence	R.I.	State of Rhode Island	\$7,516,324
Memphis Bioworks Foundation	Memphis	Tenn.	Tennessee: Fayette, Shelby and Tipton counties Mississippi: DeSoto, Marshall, Tate and Tunica counties Arkansas: Crittenden County	\$8,083,138
San Jacinto Community College District	Pasadena	Texas	Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty counties	\$9,294,620

Project QUEST Inc.	San Antonio	Texas	Pleasanton, Bandera, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Pearsall, Fredericksburg, Seguin, Kenedy, Boerne, Kerrville, Hondo and Floresville	\$6,000,000
Total				\$169,771,960