WIA-PCCA Collaboration to Address Skills Gap

- PCCA and WIA aligned to improve workforce
- Skills gap causing:
  - Labor shortages
  - Increases in labor costs
  - Retention and poaching issues
  - Quality and safety challenges
- PCCA and WIA taking steps to address this gap
- PCCA and WIA synergy
  - Overlapping and related industries
  - Similar training needs, both fit apprenticeship model
PCCA-WIA Collaboration

- Bolster PCCA-led community college curricula with WIA wireless content
  - State Technical College of Missouri
  - Wisconsin Indian Technical College
  - Terra State Community College in Fremont, Ohio
- The Utility Technician occupations can include WIA cutting-edge wireless content
- Community colleges ideal venue for comprehensive apprenticeship training
- WIA invested over $1.5 million to date in training and apprenticeships
Department of Labor Apprenticeship Grant: Closing the Skills Gaps

U.S. DoL awarding $100 million to fund 16-30 apprenticeship grants

• Each from $500,000 to $6 million
• Awarded to partnerships of industry and schools
• DoL seeks to develop new apprenticeship models; expand to new industry sector, occupation or population, on a local/regional, statewide, or national scale
• Grant program supports:
  • Industry-approved, competency-based curricula for both on-the-job and classroom training
  • Appropriate quality assurance and data systems and processes
DoL Grant Requirements

Submissions due September 24, 2019

- Required partners for the application include:
  - Lead Applicant (WIA)
  - Institution(s) of Higher Education (i.e., State Technical College of Missouri) or consortium
  - Employers (25 already existing with TIRAP – PCCA members can join)
  - U.S. DoL strongly encourages additional private industry partners (PCCA)
Grant Requirements

• U.S. DoL requires applicants to address an H-1B Industry or Occupation – yet can focus on training apprentices to reach middle to highly skilled jobs on career pathway

• Participants do not need H1-B skill levels to enter the apprenticeships. WIA plans for program to advance apprentices along career paths leading to develop strong skills for future employment in H-1B occupations. Examples:

  • Radio Frequency Engineer
  • Telecommunications Engineer
  • Network Support Technician
  • Wireless Systems Engineer
Grant Match Requirements

Program requires cost-sharing or matching funds

• Cash or in-kind contributions
• Must be equal to 45% of the total federal share of costs
• Examples of in-kind includes:
  • Salaries paid to apprentices
  • Costs of training including community college courses
  • PCCA and employer-dedicated staff time
  • Office/workplace/school space costs
  • Training equipment included that donated to schools
• If already raising funds, 55% grant supplement attractive
  • pays for curriculum development
Next Steps: Determine Partners and Build Project Narrative

- Determine Geographic Scope (local/regional, statewide, or national scale)
- Statement of Need
- Expected Outcomes & Outputs
- Project Design
- Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity
- Past Performance – Programmatic Capability
- Budget & Budget Justification
WIA Awards
Honoring Wireless Workforce Champions

Mark your calendar:
October 1, 2019
Conrad Washington, DC

Soon to be announced
Thank You!
Questions or comments?