



CDSS

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July 2, 2010

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS

FROM: KÄREN DICKERSON
Employment and Eligibility Branch

SUBJECT: **GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance has announced the availability of funds and has requested applications for its Health Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals. This announcement provides funds for cooperative agreements to conduct demonstration projects that provide eligible individuals with the opportunity to obtain education and training for occupations in the healthcare field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is collaborating with the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), Employment Development Department (EDD), and the California Workforce Association (CWA) to develop a grant application. At this time, the approach will focus on regional collaborative efforts, partnering with the Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA), county welfare departments, the Department of Industrial Relations apprenticeship program, local service providers and the community colleges.

This grant is designed to aid in the development and implementation of education and training programs in targeted health-care fields with the intended participants being TANF recipients and other low-income individuals. A more detailed description of the funding opportunity follows this email as well as a link to the grant information on ACF's website. It is the intent of CDSS, CWIB, and EDD to draft a statewide grant application that would then be based on local or regional collaborators.

At this time, CDSS is asking for the names of interested counties to work with regional collaborations towards this grant's intended purpose. Those interested counties would need to participate in the drafting of the application during the month of July, as well as

in the development of the program itself after grant awards have been made. The deadline for applying for the grant is August 5th, 2010.

If your county is interested in participating, please respond to Andrew Wilson with the CalWORKs Employment Bureau at Andrew.wilson@dss.ca.gov **by Tuesday, July 6th**. We realize this is a short turnaround and appreciate your attention to this opportunity. On July 6th, CDSS will be having further discussions with stakeholders about this grant based on the level of interest we receive from county welfare departments and local Workforce Investment Areas.

Health Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals

New federal law (HR 3590, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) provides for demonstration projects that offer opportunities for education and training in healthcare occupations that have labor shortages or are in high demand. These programs are to provide individuals with education and training that will prepare them to enter and advance in the healthcare sector. The intended target populations are TANF recipients and other low-income individuals. The awards range from \$1 million to \$5 million per 12-month budget period for up to five years (\$5-\$25 million total). The application deadline for this grant is August 5th, 2010. Successful applicants will be given 120 days for planning and development, including partnership building, developing interagency agreements, procurement, and staff training.

Eligible applicants include states, local Workforce Investment Boards, higher education institutions, Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations, and other community-based organizations. Proposed projects must provide direct training and/or education, and related activities that prepare individuals for employment in the healthcare field, including earning employer- or industry-recognized certificates or degrees. The Administration for Children and Families is particularly interested in applications that focus on allied health, long-term care, child care health advocate training, health information technology, and nursing.

To be eligible for this grant, applicants must demonstrate in the application that the applicant has consulted and coordinated with each of the following entities:

- The State agency responsible for administering the State TANF program;
- The Local Workforce Investment Board in the project area
- The State Workforce Investment Board
- The State Apprenticeship Agency

Suggested Strategic Partnerships include the following:

- Public and private employers, such as healthcare providers and industry-related organizations
- The education and training community
- Nonprofit organizations, such as community or faith-based organizations that have direct access to the target populations
- Labor organizations
- Organizations implementing projects funded by the Recovery Act that will create or support jobs in the healthcare sector
- National, state, and local foundations that focus on assisting project participants
- State and local social services agencies that provide supportive services to project participants

Grant applicants are strongly recommended to include specified activities, including activities that:

- Support participants' advancement along a career pathway
- Result in employer- or industry-recognized certificates or degrees
- Provide training at times and locations that are convenient and easily accessible for participants
- Integrate occupational training with basic skills training
- Integrate education and training activities with supportive services necessary to overcome barriers

Grant funds can be used for direct training/education costs, including faculty/instructors, support staff, classroom space, and supplies and specialist equipment needed in the training course.

Grantees are required to participate in a federal evaluation of the project, work cooperatively with federal government sponsored technical assistance and monitoring, and meet regular reporting requirements. Applicants must also demonstrate how they will ensure that any award of Federal funds under this grant will not supplant or augment other federal, state or local funds which otherwise have been made available. Additionally, applicants may not submit applications to augment current federally funded programs, nor may funds be used to continue or extend existing grants.

Further information and details regarding the grant opportunity can be found here: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-OFA-FX-0126>