

<b>EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b> Foreign Labor Certification
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL</b> OFLC
	<b>DATE</b> May 12, 2026

**ADVISORY:** TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER NO. 15-24, CHANGE 1

**TO:** STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES  
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS

**FROM:** HENRY MACK, ED.D. /s/  
Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Change 1 to Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 15-24, Foreign Labor Certification Grant Planning Guidance for Fiscal Year 2026

1. **Purpose.** To communicate allotment amounts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 foreign labor certification grants and explain updated application requirements to State Workforce Agencies (SWA). The rest of Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 15-24 remains the same.
2. **Action Requested.** SWA Administrators are requested to share this guidance within their respective organizations to ensure that fiscal and programmatic staff are aware that FY 2026 allotments are available. SWAs must submit applications within 30 days of this guidance being issued. Applications must meet the application requirements detailed in Attachment I.
3. **Summary and Background.**
  - a. Summary – This Change 1 to Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 15-24 provides updated application guidance and the SWAs’ FY 2026 grant allotments for foreign labor certification activities.
  - b. Background – The mission of ETA’s Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether there are able, willing, and qualified U.S. workers available for a job, and whether there will be adverse impact on the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers should a labor certification be granted. The Immigration and Nationality Act and the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 (Workforce Act) assign certain responsibilities to the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) for employment-based immigration programs. The Secretary has delegated the non-enforcement responsibilities of these labor certification programs to OFLC.

<b>RESCISSIONS</b> None	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b> Continuing
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Accordingly, statutory and regulatory provisions of foreign labor certification programs administered by OFLC generally require employers seeking to hire foreign labor on a permanent or temporary basis to apply to the Secretary for a labor certification. ETA provides annual grants to each SWA based on their 3-year strategic grant plan to support required state-level foreign labor certification activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, reviewing and placing job orders (for H-2A and H-2B) and job vacancy announcements (for CW-1) to recruit U.S. workers; providing assistance to employers in the effective recruitment of U.S. workers; conducting safety inspections of employer-provided housing for H-2A agricultural workers and workers in corresponding employment; performing prevailing practice and wage surveys used to set the wages and working standards for occupations within the state; conducting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) governor's survey for CW-1; and conducting post-certification site visits to support employer compliance with H-2A and H-2B program requirements.

4. **Content.** See Attachment I for updated application guidance and Attachment II for the FY 2026 Grant Allotments.
5. **General Administration.** With their FY 2026 grant allotments, SWAs are responsible for carrying out foreign labor certification activities outlined in the FY 2025 – 2027 Strategic Grant Plan (See Attachment III of TEGL 15-24, available here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/tegl-15-24>).
6. **Inquiries.** SWA staff should direct all grant-related questions to OFLC at [FLC.Grant@dol.gov](mailto:FLC.Grant@dol.gov).
7. **References.**
  - Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a), 1182(a)(5)(A), 1184(c), and 1188;
  - Approval of Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 48 U.S.C. 1801, 1806;
  - Wagner-Peyser Act, 29 U.S.C. 49f(d);
  - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations at 8 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 214;
  - 20 CFR Parts 653, subpart F; 654, subpart E; 655, subparts A, B and E; 656; and 658;
  - ETA H-2A Program Handbook No. 398, January 1988;
  - 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards;
  - 2 CFR Part 2900, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Department of Labor; and
  - Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R. 1968).
8. **Attachment(s).**
  - Attachment I: FY 2026 Application Guidance
  - Attachment II: FY 2026 Grant Allotments