1. What is the purpose of this grant program?

To provide grants to community-based organizations that provide technical assistance (TA) to employers and labor unions to encourage employment of women in pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and non-traditional occupations (A/NTO). The TA provided through this grant program will prepare organizations to successfully recruit, train, and retain women in A/NTO and also expand women’s employment opportunities and labor force participation.

2. What types of technical assistance may be provided with these grant funds?

Applying organizations must provide one or more of the following types of technical assistance:

- Developing pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, or nontraditional skills training programs to prepare women for A/NTO;
- Providing ongoing orientations for employers, unions, and workers on creating an environment conducive to women’s success in A/NTO; and
- Setting up support groups and facilitating networks for women in A/NTO to improve their retention.

3. Which occupations does the grant cover?

This grant is intended to provide technical assistance to employers and labor unions to encourage employment of women in A/NTO. As defined in Section III.C.1 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, non-traditional occupations are those occupations in which women account for less than 25 percent of all persons employed in a single occupational group, and apprenticeable occupations are occupations that are specified by industry, or defined in 29 CFR 29.4, and which must:

- Involve skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the-job supervised learning;
- Be clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
- Involve the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge; and
- Require related instruction to supplement the on-the-job learning.

4. Is this grant program focused solely on encouraging women’s employment in the skilled trades, such as construction?
Applicants may propose to provide technical assistance to support women’s participation and success in the full range of industries in which women are traditionally underrepresented or disproportionately concentrated in the lower-wage occupations. Such industries include but are not limited to: advanced manufacturing, energy, health care, information technology, and transportation.

5. **Who is eligible to receive a grant?**

Grant recipients must be Community-Based Organizations, as defined in Section III.C.1 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement:

- A private non-profit organization (i.e., incorporated under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) §§ 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)) (except for §501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying as described in Section VI.B. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement), or an entity that is actively pursuing IRS nonprofit tax-exempt status (which may be a faith-based organization or a Native American organization), that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that has demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in the field of workforce development.

6. **Are past and current WANTO grant recipients eligible?**

Yes.

7. **Must the entities receiving technical assistance be Apprenticeship Programs?**

At least one of the entities to which an applicant intends to provide technical assistance must be an Apprenticeship Program, as defined in Section III.C.1 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, and/or an organization that has certified National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards, also as defined in Section III.C.1 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

8. **What is the amount of grant funding an applicant may apply for?**

An applicant may apply for a grant between $250,000 and $500,000.

9. **What application materials are required?**

Applications submitted in response to this Funding Opportunity Announcement must consist of four separate and distinct parts:

- Form SF-424 (“Application for Federal Assistance”);
- Project Budget;
- Project Narrative; and
- Attachments to the Project Narrative.

10. **When are the applications due?**
Applications are due on August 16, 2018, no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). This is a firm deadline. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

11. Can we forward required application information separately from our official application submission?

No. Any information received outside of the official application submission will not be included in or considered during the review process.

12. Where can I find answers to general FAQs about federal grant applications?

The Department’s Employment and Training Administration has a webpage that contains helpful information about application submission and responsiveness requirements. This webpage is available at: https://www.doleta.gov/grants/.

In addition, the federal government’s grants.gov website provides many useful resources for federal grant applicants—including registration instructions, application tracking, applicant tools and tips, and FAQs. These resources are available at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html.

13. How can I apply?

View the grant opportunity here: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=307197