

U.S. Department of Labor—Women’s Bureau
2017 Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Technical
Assistance Grant Program
Frequently Asked Questions
July 24, 2017

1. What is the purpose of this grant program?

The purpose of this grant program is to provide employers and labor unions with technical assistance to encourage women’s employment in apprenticeable and non-traditional occupations (A/NTO).

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

Grant recipients may provide technical assistance through one or more of the following activities:

- Developing (establishing, expanding or enhancing) pre-apprenticeship or nontraditional skills training programs designed to prepare women for careers in A/NTO;
- Providing ongoing orientations for employers, unions and workers on creating a successful environment for women in A/NTO; and/or
- Setting up support groups and facilitating networks for women in A/NTO, to improve their retention.

3. What are “apprenticeable and non-traditional occupations”?

For the purposes of this grant program, the following definitions apply:

Apprenticeable occupations are occupations that are specified by industry 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 which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and*
- *Require related instruction to supplement the on-the-job learning.*

Nontraditional occupations are occupations where women account for less than 25 percent of all persons employed in a single occupational group.

4. Is this grant program focused solely on encouraging women’s employment in the skilled trades, such as construction?

No. 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, healthcare, information technology, and transportation.

5. Who is eligible to receive a grant?

Grant recipients must be community-based organizations.

For the purposes of this grant program, a community-based organization is defined as:

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 which may provide job training services.

6. Are past and current WANTO grant recipients eligible?

Yes.

7. Must the entities receiving technical assistance be Registered Apprenticeship programs?

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

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

An applicant may apply for up to \$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:

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

10. When are applications due?

Applications are due on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, no later than 4:00:00 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?

Information should not be forwarded outside of the official application submission. 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>.