

TRANSMITTAL # 2

MEMORANDUM

September 24, 2009

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director



SUBJECT: Discretionary Grant Opportunity for Health Care Training

ACTION REQUESTED: Join as a partner and offer recommendations for inclusion in the final proposal

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of approximately \$220 million in grant funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for training and placement services in healthcare or other high-growth industries. The Department of Labor intends to fund up to 65 grants ranging from \$2 million to \$5 million to expand capacity for training the unemployed, dislocated workers and groups with barriers to employment.

The Idaho Department of Labor has joined with education, industry and association representatives on a proposal to expand education and training in southwestern Idaho for the nursing career pathway. This region showed the most significant gap between demand for training and its availability and between supply and demand for graduates of these programs. The region was also targeted because of the economic development focus on expanding medical services there.

To date, this partnership includes Boise State University, Idaho State University (Meridian), the College of Western Idaho and the Meridian School District, particularly its professional-technical and academic programs at the Renaissance School. The Board of Education, the Division of Professional-Technical Education and the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training are also joining this effort. We have entered into a partnership with St. Luke's, the Idaho Health Care Association representing long-term care, the Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing and anticipate it will expand to other worker and business representatives.

The proposal intends to provide opportunities for employment in the high-growth health care industry for low income, unemployed and dislocated workers, especially those with barriers, and to improve access to a streamlined career pathway that allows entry and movement across and up the career ladder without duplication.

Specific projects under the grant would:

1. Revise the nursing assistant curriculum to contain at least one general education course and include increased simulation time.
2. Expand nursing assistant enrollment and offer scholarships to admit 30 refugees and 30 more students from high-need populations.
3. Add English as a Second Language classes and review videos to the nursing assistant curriculum to foster the success of refugees and other non-native speakers.
4. Increase graduation rates in the LPN program by providing 40 scholarships.
5. Collaborate with long-term care to improve retention of certified nursing assistants through an apprentice program and to provide CNAs opportunities to become LPNs or ARNs.
6. Develop curriculum for LPN graduates to transition into the AS nursing program.
7. Provide scholarships for 125 associate degree-prepared registered nurses to enter a baccalaureate degree nursing program.
8. Increase graduation rates in the Bachelor of Science nursing program at Boise State by providing scholarships to 75 students with high financial need.
9. Provide scholarships for 30 students who have baccalaureate degrees in another discipline to enter a fast-track baccalaureate program in nursing through Idaho State University.
10. Provide funding to increase capacity in the fast track program.
11. Provide funding to increase simulation education for all schools in the grant impact area.
12. Provide, from non-grant funds, support for RN retention, scholarships for master's and doctorate programs and strengthen programs of study in elementary and secondary schools.

Budgets are still under development, but we anticipate requesting up to the authorized amount.

Action Requested:

The work force development system is a required partner in the proposal as represented by the Workforce Development Council or the Idaho Department of Labor one-stop system. We request participation of the council as a partner and invite any comments or recommendations for improving the proposal.

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