



Energizing Careers Program FAQ's

Who determined the 44 counties impacted by automotive-related restructuring?

In the solicitation for grant announcement (SGA) the US Department of Labor (US DOL) identified the Ohio counties impacted by automotive-related restructuring. The SGA can be found at the following website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=48074>

Must the businesses that respond to the Request for Proposal (RFP) be located in the 44 counties recognized as impacted by automotive-related restructuring by the US DOL?

No, businesses **do not** have to be located in the 44 counties to qualify for funding. Companies located in the 44 counties will receive additional points during the scoring round of the RFPs.

Must the businesses that respond to the RFP be manufacturers of components for the wind, solar, and biomass industries or can they be installers, maintenance workers, electricians, etc. of these component parts?

The Energizing Careers Program (the Program) supports Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in the advanced energy manufacturing sectors of wind, solar and biomass, as well as those industries' equivalent of Tier I Suppliers and the businesses that take the final wind, solar and biomass product to market. Definitions of OEMs and Tier 1 Suppliers can be found on page 3 and 4 of the RFP.

Would these companies be eligible to submit an RFP in order to send workers to these types of trainings even though we are not one of the 44 counties listed?

Businesses are eligible to utilize training providers that are not listed in 44 counties identified as impacted by automotive-related restructuring by the US DOL. During the scoring process of the RFPs, businesses that are located in the 44 counties identified as impacted by automotive-related restructuring by the US Department of Labor will be awarded additional points. Companies located outside of those 44 counties are strongly encouraged to respond to the RFP.

Are electricians who install solar PV systems and attend training to be a NABCEP certified renewable energy installer eligible for the Program?

The Program supports OEMs in the advanced energy manufacturing sectors of wind, solar and biomass, as well as those industries' equivalent of Tier I Suppliers and the businesses that take the final wind, solar and biomass product to market. The Program supports customized training for improving workers' skills in Ohio's expanding advanced energy manufacturing sector, helping Ohio businesses remain competitive. The Program will provide technical and financial assistance directly to employers to train their workers. Installers do not qualify under this funding opportunity.

Are solar PV system installers considered to be Tier I Suppliers?

Installers do not qualify as Tier I Supplier for this funding opportunity. As defined on page 4 of the RFP, Tier 1 Suppliers are manufacturing businesses whose products are used as components in another businesses product.

When does the 12 month period when we can begin to train employees start?

The 12 month period begins when the final contract is fully executed between the business and The Ohio Department of Development.

If we have ongoing training that began prior to this start date, will that qualify under this grant going forward?

Training that began prior to a fully executed contract does not qualify for reimbursement.

If we submit for some training, for example, ERP system training, and for whatever reason, the implementation of the system is delayed and therefore the training delayed, will this be a problem? Can we substitute other qualified training in place of that training?

If a business is granted an award, the business must train their employees according to the program outlined in the submitted proposal. The evaluation process is competitive and scored according to the proposal that is submitted. However, businesses are encouraged to notify their Regional Workforce Directors of any potential change in their training plans. The Regional Workforce Director will coordinate with the Energizing Careers Program administrators to help the businesses understand their options under the Program.

Does our training plan need to show the exact number of people being trained, exact details of the training and costs?

Businesses must give a best guess estimate of the number of workers they intend to train and the costs of training activities. Training will be reimbursed based upon actual costs incurred by the business.

Would safety training by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation qualify under this grant?

We will not reimburse businesses for safety training provided by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC). Historically the BWC has offered some safety training free of charge. Businesses are encouraged to contact the BWC and the Department of Commerce to receive more information about the safety training programs they offer.

How soon after the training is completed and invoices/proof of payment submitted could we expect to have reimbursement?

Once all of the required information (including trainee demographics, trainee certifications, proof of payments etc.) is verified by The Ohio Department of Development, the invoicing process begins. Turnaround for reimbursement is expected within 2-6 weeks once all required information is received from the sub-recipient.

On page 19 of the grant information Appendix C it refers to preference given to certification from the USO. Is this University System of Ohio?

Yes, USO is the University System of Ohio.

What is the definition of a certification that is required for the Program?

Definition of Certificate: A certificate is awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation. These technical or occupational skills are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers. Certificates awarded by workforce investment boards are not included in this definition. Work readiness certificates are also not included in this definition.

A certificate is awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of technical or occupational skills by:

- A State educational agency or a State agency responsible for administering vocational and technical education within a State.
- An institution of higher education described in section 102 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1002) that is qualified to participate in the student financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV of that Act. This includes community colleges, proprietary schools, and all other institutions of higher education that are eligible to participate in Federal student financial aid programs.
- A professional, industry, or employer organization (e.g., National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence certification, National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc., Machining Level I credential) or a product manufacturer or developer (e.g., Microsoft Certified Database Administrator, Certified Novell Engineer, Sun Certified Java Programmer) using a valid and reliable assessment of an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- A registered apprenticeship program.
- A public regulatory agency, upon an individual's fulfillment of educational, work experience, or skill requirements that are legally necessary for an individual to use an occupational or professional title or to practice an occupation or profession (e.g., FAA aviation mechanic certification, State certified asbestos inspector).
- A program that has been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer education benefits to veterans and other eligible persons.
- Job Corps centers that issue certificates.
- An institution of higher education which is formally controlled, or has been formally sanctioned, or chartered, by the governing body of an Indian tribe or tribes.

In the RFP, it states to be an eligible company the business needs to demonstrate that is an OEM or Tier 1 Supplier. However, in the scoring area I noticed it mentioned supplying to a Tier II supplier. Please clarify.

The scoring sheet released with the RFP contains a typo as Tier II Suppliers are listed under the production section. As stated in the RFP, only OEMs or Tier I Suppliers qualify for this funding opportunity.

Who will be determining the application scores?

The State Energy Sector Partnership Metrics and Accountability Committee (including representatives from the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Board of Regents) will score the proposals and determine the businesses that will receive funding.

Will application points be determined after initial review of all applications? Or are points determined by application? Please explain scoring process.

Members of the State Energy Sector Partnership Metrics and Accountability Committee will initially review the proposals individually. After the individual review, the Committee will meet to review and score the proposals as a group.

Will applicants receive the scoring summaries regardless if they are awarded a grant?

Applicants interested in receiving feedback and scoring summaries should contact the Ohio Department of Development Workforce and Talent Division.

Is there a maximum grant award?

There is not a maximum total grant amount for a business. The Energizing Careers Program will reimburse the costs of training up to \$6,000 for full time employees.

It appears that the eligible training activities are similar to Ohio Workforce Guarantee guidelines. Is this true? Do you envision some flexibility on eligible activities?

Training activities are similar to the Ohio Workforce Guarantee Program. The Program provides reimbursement for training that improves workers' skills in Ohio's expanding advanced energy sectors, helping Ohio businesses remain competitive. At the end of training, employees must obtain a certificate that

demonstrates the attainment of measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation.