



## Georgia Work Ready Bridging the Skills GAP – A Golden Opportunity

Raising Work Ready Certificate scores is imperative for Georgia's job seekers to stay competitive and is one of Governor Perdue's core initiatives in his Georgia Work Ready Recovery Plan. Georgians, especially disconnected youth (18 to 24) and job seekers, wishing to improve their Work Ready Certificate levels can register for Work Ready skills gap training (either with WIN or KeyTrain software) available at no cost to all Georgians through the local technical college.

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) will award up to **25** Golden Opportunity Grants of up to \$10,000 to any Georgia agency or organization to conduct Work Ready skills gap training and successfully help Georgians improve their Work Ready Certificate Level. Improving a Work Ready Certificate level requires that one first attain a Work Ready Certificate, in which the level attained is based on the lowest score in three categories (applied mathematics, locating information, and reading for information). Improving a Work Ready Certificate level is defined by moving from a bronze to silver, silver to gold, etc.

The awarded organizations will receive \$200.00 for each Georgian who successfully improves their Work Ready Certificate level through skills gap support training provided by them. The grant award period will be for 10 months. A maximum of 50 individuals may be assisted by each grant recipient organization. All grant recipient organizations that are awarded a Golden Opportunity grant, will receive a half day of instruction and training. Each grant recipient will receive up to \$1,000 to assist in travel expenses, or other expenses required for training and the initiation of the grant. In addition, each group will be expected to submit up to two job seeker success testimonials. **Please note: This is a reimbursement grant only based on successful results.**

### To apply, please complete the following steps:

1. Develop a plan to offer Work Ready skills gap training and prepare a written description of the plan, addressing: **(1)** how you will target individuals for training opportunities, **(2)** how you will work with technical colleges to register individuals for gap training, **(3)** how you will use the gap training software (WIN or KeyTrain) to help Georgians improve their Work Ready Certificate levels, **(4)** how you will successfully assist up to 50 Georgians improve their Work Ready Certificate levels. **(5)** Please include an overall description of your organization, successful training you have provided and other relevant information. In addition, please include a point of contact including address, phone number and email. **Up to 15 points will be awarded for each section.**
2. Include in your proposal your organization's capability to accurately complete the tracking document (Microsoft Excel). **Up to 10 points will be awarded.**



3. Include two reference letters who will not be recipients of this grant. Letters should be from one previous client that you have provided training services for and one from one of the following: Work Ready County Team Leader, Work Ready Region project leader, Local WIA, GDOL Career Center, local technical college or local chambers of commerce. **Up to 15 points will be awarded for quality of letters of reference.**
4. Include a letter of support from the technical college or agency providing skills gap training access and letter of agreement from fiscal agent. Fiscal agent letter must include point of contact, address, email, phone number and FEI number.

**Completed applications should be limited to three pages (not including two reference letters, letter of support from technical college, letter of support from fiscal agent). The preferred method of submission is electronic, however hard copies will be accepted at the below address. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 9, 2010. Previous Golden Opportunity Grant Awardees are not eligible to apply.**

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#### **ADDITIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCES**

For more information on Work Ready, please visit [www.gaworkready.org](http://www.gaworkready.org)  
For more information on Be Work Ready, please visit [www.begaworkready.org](http://www.begaworkready.org)  
For more information on WIN, please visit [www.w-win.com](http://www.w-win.com)  
For more information on KeyTrain, please visit [www.keytrain.com](http://www.keytrain.com)