



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 Sonny Perdue's core initiatives in his Georgia Work Ready Recovery Plan. Georgians, especially disconnected youth (age 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 through their local technical college.

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) will award **40** 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 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 12 months. A maximum of 50 individuals may be assisted by each grant recipient organization. All grant recipient organizations that awarded Gold Opportunity grants will receive a half day of instruction (travel fees covered by GOWD). 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 to individuals currently holding Work Ready Certificates. This can be in the form of WIN or KeyTrain accessed online through your local technical college. The plan should show how all training programs will be completed within a six month time frame. Your plan should include an emphasis on assisting disconnected youth and job seekers.
2. Prepare a written description of your plan addressing: 1) how you will use the gap training software to help Georgians improve their Work Ready Certificate levels; 2) how you will target individuals for training opportunities; 3) how you will work with technical colleges to register individuals for gap training; and 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 e-mail. **Up to 15 points will be awarded for each section.**

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3. Include in your proposal your organization's capability to accurately complete the tracking document (Microsoft Excel). **Up to 10 points will be awarded.**
4. Include two reference letters from individuals who will not be recipients of the grant. Letters should be from one previous client who received training services, and one from one of the following: Certified Work Ready Community team leader, Work Ready Region project leader, local WIA, Georgia Department of Labor Career Center, local technical college or local chamber of commerce. **Up to 15 points will be awarded for quality of letters of reference.**

Applications should be sent by mail or e-mail no later than Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Completed applications should be limited to three pages (not including two reference letters) and should be sent to:

Andrew Laarhoven
Governor's Office of Workforce Development
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., S.W.
606 West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-8514
alaarhoven@gov.state.ga.us

Additional Helpful Resources

For more information on Work Ready, visit www.gaworkready.org
For more information on Be Work Ready, visit www.begaworkready.org
For more information on WIN, visit www.w-win.com
For more information on KeyTrain, visit www.keytrain.com