



## Metro Denver Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative

### Workforce Innovation Grant II RFP

March, 2008

**Purpose:** *The Workforce Innovation Grant II RFP seeks to address specific industry needs by funding innovative workforce development, training, entrepreneurship, and other industry-specific education and training partnership projects that directly lead to employment or employee advancement in four targeted high-growth, high-tech industry clusters: aerospace, bioscience, energy, and information technology.*

Program name:	Workforce Innovation Grant II
Posted date:	Friday, March 14, 2008
Mandatory pre-proposal conference:	Thursday, April 3, 2008, 1 – 3 PM, at the Metro Denver Chamber, 1445 Market St., Denver
Mandatory letter of intent due:	Monday, April 14, 2008, 4:30 PM
Proposals due:	Friday, May 2, 2008, 4:30 PM
Funding priority:	Employment training and related activities
Expected number of awards:	4 -8
Duration of contracts	12 – 14 months
Estimated total program funding:	\$1 to \$2 Million
Grant award availability:	\$100,000 – \$400,000
Targeted region:	Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld counties

**Description** -- The Workforce Innovation Grant II program is the third subgrant process of the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative, a four-year initiative funded by a grant for \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Workforce Innovation Grant program seeks to fund innovative projects to **train and place** individuals in the four targeted industries. In this RFP uses of WIRED grant funds are limited solely to **Employment training** and placement. Proposals must be from organizations that can provide job training and related activities to assist workers (both unemployed and employed) in gaining skills and competencies needed to obtain or upgrade career ladder employment positions in high growth industry sectors.

**Note: Outcomes for this grant must include job placement.** Proposals that do not include job placement in WIRED targeted industries will not be considered for funding.

Proposed innovative projects must address identified job training/placement or workforce resource connection needs in the four targeted high-growth industry clusters in the WIRED Initiative: aerospace, bioscience, energy, and information technology

**Eligible Applicants** - There is a mandatory partnership requirement for all proposals. Eligibility is limited to partnerships which include at least one participating organization from the public workforce system, one from industry, and one from education. WIRED is seeking partnerships among:

- Industry – specifically businesses in aerospace, bioscience, energy and information technology
- The public workforce system in the region (Adams County Workforce & Business Center, Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, Broomfield Workforce Center, Workforce Boulder County, Denver’s Division of Workforce Development, Jefferson County Workforce Center, Larimer County Workforce Center, and Employment Services of Weld County). Specific contact and location information for each of these public workforce partners can be found at: <http://www.coworkforce.com/EMP/WFCs.asp>. **Note: proposals must document early and thorough discussions with a workforce partner regarding the review of workforce system assets and participation in the proposed project.**
- Education and job training providers (high schools, union programs, community colleges, technical schools, 4-year public and private higher education institutions, research universities, etc.)
- Community-based non-profit organizations, and
- Economic development agencies

Partnerships are defined by actual responsibility, activity and investment in the grant project, not just serving on an advisory board or writing a letter of support. Partnership commitment letters must demonstrate the partner’s awareness of the grant project and of their responsibilities to it. Partners that do not receive funding from the grant and are therefore donating services to the grant are not excused from providing a detailed partnership commitment letter in the proposal.

The proposed fiscal agent must have established legal standing such as incorporation or a 501(c) (3) status and must be able to demonstrate a history of grant project management or other, similar administrative experience with like dollar amounts.

Link to Application Guide and Budget Preparation Materials:  
<http://www.metrodenver.org/workforce-profiles/WIRED/rfp.html>



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