

Metro Skills Training & Employment Partnership (Metro STEP)

Abstract

1. Project Name: Metro Skills Training & Employment Partnership (Metro STEP)

2. Project Applicant and partners:

The project applicant is Worksystems, Inc , Tax ID: 93-0857426. Worksystems, Inc., is the local workforce investment board for Multnomah and Washington counties, Oregon.

Project partners include the required partner groups:

Business-related Nonprofit Organizations: Manufacturing 21, Oregon Training Network, Oregon Bioscience Association, Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition

Education/Training Providers and Other Community-Based Organizations: Mount Hood Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland Community College

Workforce Investment System: In addition to being a Local Workforce Investment Board itself, Worksystems, Inc., is partnering with the other two LWIBs in the Portland Metro area: Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County (WICCO) in Oregon and the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) in Washington.

Employers: Benchmade Knife Company, Boeing, Catalyst IT Services, Inc., ControlTek, ESCO, Leupold & Stevens, MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc., Moventas, nLight, ON Semiconductor, PCC Structural (Precision Castparts), Schnitzer Steel, SEH America, SoloPower, Vigor Industrial.

3. Location: Portland, Oregon

4. Targeted High Growth Industries and Occupations, and related industries/occupations from H-1B visa lists

The Metro STEP project will target the following industries and occupations:

High Tech Industry: Computer Programmers; Computer Software Engineers-Applications; Computer Software Engineers-Systems Software; Computer Support Specialists; Computer Systems Analysts; Network and Computer Systems Administrators.

Advanced Manufacturing Industry: Industrial Production Managers; Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians; First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers; Mechanical Engineers; Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers; and Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators Metal and Plastic.

Additional occupations in the targeted industries may be identified based on employer demand and participant interest.

The H-1B Visa Lists include Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Manufacturing, and Information industries which overlap the target industries. Several of the occupations are on the H-1B via lists, including: Mechanical Engineers, Computer Programmers, Computer Systems Analysts, Computer Software Engineers-Applications, Computer Software Engineers-Systems Software, Network and Computer Systems Administrators, Computer Support Specialists. The remaining targeted occupations are all middle- or high-skill career pathway opportunities into H-1B visa occupations.

5. Funding Level Requested: \$5,000,000

6. Summary of Specific Program Activities: The Metro STEP project will utilize three participant training strategies, individualized to participant interest and skill gaps. All strategies include use of On-The-Job-Training (OJT). No incumbent worker training is included:

(1) **OJT Only:** OJTs will be used to enable businesses to train to their exact skill needs. This may be most appropriate for individuals who are transitioning from one industry to another or who have been out of the workforce for a significant time and need to re-enter an occupation which has undergone transformation due to new technologies or innovations.

(2) **Skill Upgrade + OJT:** OJTs will be used in combination with targeted skill upgrades based on a review of the participants current skill level matched against the employer's identified skill requirements.

(3) **Training + OJT:** Because many of the targeted occupations require a more significant level of education, specific advanced training programs across the region will deliver the AAS, BS, and MS degrees required by employers for individuals with a more substantial skill gap.

In addition to training activities, targeted outreach, recruitment and assessment will be performed to ensure a diverse and inclusive participant pool. Upon enrollment, the full range of workforce services will be available to help assure participant success, throughout the entire training period and during employment retention. Industry involvement activities are required throughout, and will be used to identify skill needs and assure employment opportunities.

7. Eligible Participants to be Served: Participants will be long-term unemployed individuals; at a minimum, 75% of those served will be long-term unemployed.

8: Public Contact Information:

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