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**THE Mountain Area**

**Business Accelerator Grant**

**(Incumbent worker TRAINING GRANT)**

**APPLICATION**

**Program Year (PY 21)**

**July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

**Mountain Area Business Accelerator Grant Application for One Business**

**Note: The Local Workforce Development Board will inform the business of its’ submission date deadline.**

For an application to be considered, all requested and applicable information must be provided.

## SECTION I. BUSINESS INFORMATION

The sections of the application are to be completed by the Applicant. Please complete within the form; the space will expand.

A. Applicant Information

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Business Name: | | | | | |
| Street/Mailing Address: | | | | | |
| City/State: | | | Zip: | County: | |
| Company Contact Person: | | | Title: | | |
| Phone: | | Ext: | Fax: | | |
| E-Mail Address: | | | Company Website: | | |
| Description of Business Product(s) or Service(s): | | | | | |
| Years in business at training location: | Total number of paid employees at this location: | | | | Total number NAICS Code  paid employees throughout NC: |
| How many of these employees have an employer-employee relationship? | | | |
| Legal Structure of Business: | Sole Proprietor | | Partnership | | Corporation (Designation) |
| Tax Status of Business: | For-profit | | Not-for-Profit  (Designation) | | Other: |
| Employer’s Federal ID #: | | | Unemployment Insurance ID #: | | |
| DUNS #: | | | Is your company on the federal debarment list? | | |

B. Parent Company

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Is your company a subsidiary of another company or affiliated with a parent company? | | | | | Yes | No |
| If “Yes,” please provide the following information about the corporate office/parent company, if different from above, or indicate ‘SAME.” | | | | | | |
| Parent Company Name: |  |  | | | | |
| Street/Mailing Address: |  |  | | | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: | County: | | | |
| Authorized  Representative: |  | Title: | | | | |
| Phone: | Ext: | Fax: | | | | |
| E-Mail Address: |  | Company Website: | | | | |

C. Business Status Checklist

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Has the company been in operation in the State of North Carolina during the entire twelve-month period immediately preceding the submission deadline date? Place an X in appropriate box. | Yes | No |
| Is your company current on all North Carolina state taxes? | Yes | No |
| Is your company current on all federal taxes? | Yes | No |
| Is your company current on all county, city and local taxes? | Yes | No |
| Does your company have an employer-employee relationship with all of the trainees? | Yes | No |
| Is your company subject to a collective bargaining agreement? (If “Yes,” please attach a letter of endorsement for the training from the authorized union official) | Yes | No |
| Is your company on the federal debarment list? (www.sam.gov/SAM | Yes | No |

## SECTION II. AVAILABILITY AND/OR USE OF OTHER FUNDS

The North Carolina Community College System provides funds through the Customized Training Program. Introduced in 2008, the Customized Training Program is an integration of two prior programs: The New and Expanding Industry Program (NEIT) and the Focused Industrial Training Program (FIT). To maximize resources, the business must demonstrate that it is not eligible for, or has exhausted efforts to secure, funding through this or other existing programs (examples: agreement on an acceptable training schedule timeline; availability of funds to meet training timeframe).

A. Please describe the results of your communication with a local community college or publicly-funded college or university concerning the availability of resources through: 1) The Customized Training Program, and/or 2) other potential training resources that could fund the training described herein.

***NOTE:*** *If more than one contact was made, supply the same information for each contact.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contact: | | Institution: | | |
| Outcome of discussion: | |  | | |
| B. Are any of the training components described in this application available from any publicly funded community college or university? | | Yes | No |
| C. Has your company previously received any training grants, such as the Customized Training Program, New and Expanding Industry Training or Focused Industrial Training or State-funded NC Works Incumbent Worker Grant, or other training grants from any government sources? | | Yes | No |

D. State-Funded Incumbent Worker Grant 2003-2016

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Grant Amount | Type of Training | Completed Training (Y/N) |
|  |  |  |  |
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E. Locally-Funded Incumbent Worker Grant 2018-present

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Grant Amount | Type of Training | Completed Training (Y/N) |
|  |  |  |  |
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F. Explain how the training will address the identified skills gaps, improve employee retention, impact company stability, and increase the competitiveness of the employer and employee by either: Upgrading their skills and knowledge to retain their current job, ***or*** Gaining new skills and knowledge so they qualify for a different job with their employer.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## SECTION III. TRAINING PLAN

1. Training Summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anticipated Project Start Date: |  |
| Project Length: (to be no longer than 12 months from date of contract). |  |
| Amount of Funds Requested: |  |
| Number of Employees who will attend **only** an orientation/introduction of the training: **(Do not count this number in the “Number of Employees to be trained”)** |  |
| **Number of Employees to be trained (**Count each **one** time**):** |  |

1. Collaborative Grant

If this is a Collaborative Grant, please provide the following for each company, including the lead applicant:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Number to be Trained (unique count): |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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If the application is for a collaborative grant, all of the companies included in the grant, but not the lead applicant, are to complete Attachment D and each company should be included on the Application Overview.

1. Training Components

See Attachment A for the Training Component Template. The form can be replicated as many times as necessary to include all Training Components requested for funding.

1. Incumbent Worker Defined:

An incumbent worker is:

* 1. At least 18 years of age, a paid employee of the applicant business or businesses;
  2. In a relationship that meets the Fair Labor Standards Act requirements for an employer-employee;
  3. A minimum of 50% of the employees to be trained must have an established employment history with the employer as a W-2 employee for 6 months or more prior to the start of training. The remainder of the employees to ne trained must be W-2 employees prior to the start of training but may have less than six months of W-2 employment with the company.
  4. A citizen of the United States or a non-citizen whose status permits employment in the United States; and
  5. An employee to be trained who works at a facility located in North Carolina.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | No |

Are all employees to be trained an eligible Incumbent Worker as described above?

1. Project Abstract (Use Times Roman 12, single spaced in the narrative)

Please provide the following information on Attachment B:

* 1. Background information on the company;
  2. Overview of the training (not to exceed ½ page) and information to support the request and need for training;
  3. Description of how the requested training will address employees’ skills gaps, improve employee retention, impact company stability, and increase the competitiveness of the employee and employer.
  4. Reason for requesting financial assistance to conduct the training.

# SECTION IV.BUDGET

A. The applicant is encouraged to apply only for the amount of funds needed to meet its immediate training needs. The project budget should clearly support and relate to the training plan and itemize how the award will be used. **The amount under the “Grant Funds Requested” column below should equal the total of the amounts shown under “Component Cost Charged to Grant” for all Training Components listed in Section III C. Training Components, Attachment A**. All proposed expenses must be allowable, reasonable and necessary (see Attachment C).

Please provide the required information on this budget form, rather than submitting attachments.

The applicant must pay for a portion of the cost of providing the training to incumbent workers. This portion is defined as the non-federal share. The non-federal share is based on the following limits:

* Not less than 10% of the cost, for employers with not more than 50 employees;
* Not less than 25% of the cost, for employers with more than 50 employees, but not more than 100 employees;
* Not less than 50% of the cost, for employers with more than 100 employees.

The non-federal share provided by an employer participating in the program may include the amount of the wages paid by the employer to a worker while the worker is attending training. The employer may provide the share in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated. A column has been provided for this information.

**NOTE**: Shaded areas allow for the entry of Grant Funds Requested, Employer’s Non-Federal Share, and Explanation and Detail. The shading will appear with the selection of the “Highlight Existing Fields” option in the upper right corner. See Attachment C for additional information on allowable costs.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | | **Grant Funds Requested** | **Employer’s NonFederal Share (ENFS)**  **(Wages, in-kind, cash, etc.)\*** | **Explanation and Detail**  **Please place a “G” after all explanation of costs to be paid by the Training Grant funds and**  **Itemize the cost of each Training Component.** |
| Training/Course Registration | |  |  |  |
| Manuals/Textbooks (itemize) | |  |  |  |
| Training Certifications,  Certificates, Credentials, or  Licenses | |  |  |  |
| Materials and Supplies | |  |  |  |
| Training equipment purchase (can be employer’s nonfederal share) |  |  |  |
| On-site facility usage (can be employer’s non-federal share) |  |  |  |
| Trainer’s travel, food, and lodging |  |  |  |
| Employees’ travel, food, lodging (can be employer’s nonfederal share); up to $2,00 can be grant funded |  |  |  |
| Employees’ wages (can be employer’s non-federal share) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | TOTAL TRAINING INVESTMENT (Grant + ENFS): $ |
| **Total Funds** (Both  Grant and ENFS) | **$** | **$** |  |

The Mountain Workforce Development Board reserve the right to remove or adjust any part of the budget prior to grant approval. \*The number of employees is based on all locations within Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties.

**SECTION V.** AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION

As authorized representative of the Business submitting this application, I hereby certify that:

* I have read the Mountain Area Incumbent Worker Training Grant Guidelines and coordinated this application with the Local Workforce Development Board;
* The Business meets the requirements and is eligible to submit this application;
* The information contained in this application is true and accurate and reflects the intentions of the Mountain Area Incumbent Worker Training Grant;
* I am aware that any false information, intentional omissions, or misrepresentations may result in rejection of the application and possible disqualification for future funding;
* I am aware that any false information, intentional omissions, or misrepresentations may subject the Business to civil or criminal penalties;
* I understand that training materials purchased with funds awarded under this project will be in the public domain and will be available for use by other eligible entities at no costs;
* The Business agrees to adhere to all reporting requirements; and to respond to a Customer Satisfaction Survey(s), if asked; and
* The Business agrees to provide all requested data elements as required for federal reporting.

Further, this business shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, applicant or Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act participant, subcontractor or potential beneficiaries of employment and training programs or projects because of race, color, disability, religion, age, sex, national origin, political affiliation or belief.

Print Name Title

Signature Date

**ATTACHMENT A**

## TRAINING COMPONENT # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Title**: | | |
| Course Description and Objectives: | | |
| Training Schedule (# hours of training): Estimated Training Dates: | | |
| Number of Trainees for Component: | | |
| Training Location: | | |
| Component Cost: | Component Cost Charged to Grant: | |
| **Please provide information for the training provider.** | | |
| Name of Training Provider: | | |
| Name of Training Provider Contact: | | Phone: |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: |
| E-Mail Address: | | |
| **Provide the following information for each Instructor of this Component.** | | |
| Name of Trainer/Instructor: | | |
| Qualifications of Trainer/Instructor to Teach Component: | | |
| Please provide the information requested in questions 1-3. | | |
| 1. Identify the skills gaps of the employees to be trained. | | |
| 2. Explain how the training will address the identified skills gap, improve employee retention, impact company stability, and increase the competitiveness of the employee and employer by either:  Upgrading their skills and knowledge to retain their current job; ***OR***  Gaining new skills and knowledge so they qualify for a different job with their employer. | | |
| 3. How will this training component impact the employees’ opportunity for advancement in the company and/or wage increases? | | |

**NOTE**: This template (Attachment A) is to be replicated for each Training Component. Ask the business services representation for a separate copy of Attachment A.

**ATTACHMENT B** **PROJECT ABSTRACT SECTION VI.**

Please provide the following information, not to exceed three (3) pages: Use Times Roman 12, single spaced and 1” margins.

1. Background information on the company;
2. Overview of the training (not to exceed ½ page) and information to support the request and need for training;
3. Description of how the requested training will address the identified skills gaps, improve employee retention, impact company stability, and increase the competitiveness of the employee and employer;
4. Reason for requesting financial assistance to conduct the training.

## ATTACHMENT C REIMBURSEABLE/NON-REIMBURSEABLE TRAINING COSTS

The following is a listing of reimbursable and non-reimbursable training costs for the Mountain Areas Business Accelerator Training Grant:

**Allowable Training Costs:**

1. Training / Course registration
2. Training that results in participants obtaining an industry-recognized certification or credential to include training preparation for certification exams. Funding must be requested for both the training and the certification exam and completed within the twelve (12) month contract
3. Web-based online training
4. Employee skills assessment that results in primary training funded through the grant
5. Textbooks / manuals used 100% for the training activities
6. Materials and supplies directly related to the funded training
7. Travel for trainers-if the requested training is not available within reasonable proximity to the business
8. Travel for trainees-up to $2,000 maximum, not to exceed 25% of total grant request.   Non-federal share for size of company must be met before travel is an allowable cost.   Travel (food, lodging, transportation) must be based on federal guidelines at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov).   Incidentals are not included in travel.  Mileage will be based on distance to and from training site only.  Google maps will be used for mileage calculations.  Travel records and paid receipts must be provided for all reimbursed travel.
9. Process improvement or quality-related training that is not a state or federally mandated training.

**Non-Allowable Training Costs:**

1. Employee related costs such as wages, fringe benefits, travel.
2. Training-related costs incurred prior to the beginning date of the contract with the MAWDB or after the contract ends.
3. Training that the company or an entity on the company’s behalf already provides to its employees.
4. Training that a company is mandated to provide on a regular basis to its employees by federal, state, or local laws
5. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and other training that is specifically required for an employee or entity to maintain licensure, certification or accreditation
6. Courses that are part of a trainee’s pursuit of an educational degree
7. Employment or training in sectarian activities
8. Curriculum design and/or training program development
9. Trainers employed by any business whose employees are being trained to include parent company employees
10. Purchase of employee assessment systems or systems usage licenses (example: site licenses)
11. Company website design and development, website hosting, and maintenance, software or hardware upgrades, advice on computer selection for purchase and upgrade
12. Third party compensation or fees not directly related to the provision of the requested training
13. Any costs that would normally be considered allowable, but for which there is no request/cost for training related to the item(s) within the application
14. Capital improvements, purchase of real estate, to include the construction or renovation of facilities or buildings, and capital equipment or other durable (long lasting and/or reusable) training materials
15. Business relocation or other similar/related expenses
16. Travel outside of contiguous United States or costs associated with bringing a trainer into the country
17. General office supplies and non-personnel services costs (example: postage and photocopying)
18. Membership fees/dues
19. Food, beverage, entertainment, and/or celebration related expenses
20. Job/position profiling
21. Publicity/public relations costs
22. Costs associated with conferences
23. Costs associated with consulting services