

Executive Summary

The Workforce Development Training Fund is a state funded business training and outreach program comprised of three sub programs. The largest program, Business Training Grants, provides grant funding for new or incumbent worker training which directly contributes to workforce development at the business and individual levels. Another program, Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants, focuses on supplying trained workers to resolve industry shortages. The third program, Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds, allows Economic Development entities to set aside funding for a business expansion or to entice a business to relocate to Wyoming.

The Workforce Development Training Fund is funded through an appropriation by the Wyoming State Legislature and interest earned from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The Workforce Development Training Fund's total operating budget for the 2007-2008 biennium was \$8,075,592.



During Fiscal Year 2008, the Workforce Development Training Fund, Business Training Grants program was closed from November 2, 2007 to February 4, 2007 due to increased demand for funds which resulted in a funding shortfall. During this closure period, the program continued to collect monies from Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund interest, eventually allowing the program to resume operation. In addition, Joan K. Evans, the Director of the Department of Workforce Services approached the Legislature for an early release of the Workforce Development Training Fund's 2009-2010 biennial budget to ensure no future closures would be necessary. The legislature allowed the release of some funds while providing that, "The department shall develop policies to ensure that funds appropriated for the business training and outreach program are distributed on a prioritized needs basis."

To address the Legislative footnote, the Workforce Development Training Fund, Business Training Grants program intends to draft Rules in line with the Department's sector strategy initiative, which are intended to further prioritize distribution of available funds. This would allow businesses across the state to

apply for funds if they fall within the sectors designated to be of priority by the Department based upon several criteria, including: economic growth potential; competitiveness; employment base; wages, benefits, and career opportunities; workforce development needs; and the importance of the industry sector to the state and regional economy. This strategy is intended to reduce usage of the funds to sufficiently operate within the program's biennial budget.

In addition, during the past year, staff of the Workforce Development Training Fund has pursued several low and no cost initiatives to enhance the program. The enhancements increased accountability, shortened grant processing time and eased the process for customers.

Business Training Grants

The Business Training Grants program had another remarkable year of growth and program efficiency improvements. A summary of activity shows:

- A 9 percent increase in applications approved;
- A 46 percent increase in the application amount approved;
- A 28 percent increase in the number of trainees on approved applications;
- A 10 percent increase in the number of individual businesses served.

Again, the Workforce Development Training Fund accomplished these improvements with no increase in staff. Instead, these successes were achieved by using available resources to streamline processes and maximize efficiency. Below are the highlights of statistical information derived from the full Fiscal Year 2008 Business Training Grants status report, which is included as Attachment A to this report.

Number of businesses that used Business Training Grants: 330

- The top three sizes of the 330 businesses utilizing Business Training Grants are:
 - o Businesses that employ 1 – 5 employees: 111;
 - o Businesses that employ 11 – 25 employees: 53;
 - o Businesses that employ over 100 employees: 64.
- Of the 330 business that used Business Training Grants, the top three industries were:
 - o Health Care & Social Assistance: 73;
 - o Professional & Technical Services: 48;
 - o Other Services (Except Public Admin): 41.

Number of employees trained with Business Training Grants: 3,203

- Number of females trained with Business Training Grants: 1,721
- Number of males trained with Business Training Grants: 1,482
- The top three occupations of trainees trained are:

- o Healthcare Practitioners and Technical: 558;
- o Management: 485;
- o Office and Administrative Support: 313.

Average grant amount approved (by contract): \$2,756.96.

Average grant amount approved (by trainee): \$829.55.

Business Training Grants				
	Number of Grants	Amount Approved	Number of Trainees	Number of Businesses
FY 1998	3	\$149,827	356	3
FY 1999	6	\$396,891	412	6
FY 2000	18	\$243,224	154	16
FY 2001	57	\$673,374	543	39
FY 2002	191	\$827,283	940	121
FY 2003	531	\$2,315,466	2,064	250
FY 2004 - Partial Year	239	\$971,876	881	140
FY 2005 - Under the new rules	727	\$2,164,004	3,018	245
FY 2006	611	\$1,553,468	2,371	240
FY 2007	1061	\$2,143,437	2,499	299
FY 2008 – Partial Year (8 Months)	1157*	\$3,129,044**	3,203***	330****
Total for all years	4,601	14,567,894	16,441	1,689

* This is a 9 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2007
 ** This is a 46 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2007
 *** This is a 28.2 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2007
 **** This is a 10.4 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2007

Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants

The Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants program continues to be a valuable workforce development tool for Wyoming. Driven solely by business demand for skilled workers, the success of the program is rooted in strong partnerships between trainers, businesses, economic development entities and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. During Fiscal Year 2008, there were six Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants awarded to five trainers across the state. As noted in the chart below, the Pre-Hire Economic Development Grant program is scheduled to train 399 workers in an occupation or skill at an average per trainee cost of \$3,172.

Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants					
Region	Award	Number of Trainees Contracted	Cost per Trainee	Occupation	Performance Standard Met?
SE	\$7,954.00	10	\$795.40	Healthcare Support	Yes
NW	\$79,961.80	22	\$3,634.63	Web-based Instructors	N/A*
Statewide	\$197,229.49	135	\$1,460.96	Electricians	N/A*
NE	\$458,520.00	100	\$4,585.20	CDL	N/A*
SE	\$130,661.00	28	\$4,666.46	CDL	N/A*
NW	\$404,556.40	104	\$3,889.97	Web-based Instructors	N/A*
Totals	\$1,278,882.69	399	\$3,172.10		

N/A* indicates that final reporting was not required by the close of the Fiscal Year.

Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds

The Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds program was established to formalize what the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services could offer the economic development community to assist new, relocating or expanding businesses in Wyoming. Prior to the original offering of Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds as an economic development tool, the Workforce Development Training Fund found that competition developed because the economic development community and the established businesses were competing for the same funds that were located in the Business Training Grant budget. As a result, the Workforce Development Training Fund requested that money be set aside which would be utilized solely by the Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds program in the 2007 – 2008 biennial budget.

The value in this program is seen when the Workforce Development Training Fund is approached by an economic development entity looking for ways to entice businesses to the state. Once funds are committed to a large project, those funds may not be utilized by another project.

Pre-Obligation of Workforce Development Training Funds				
Region	Business Type	Grant Type	Total Obligated	Number of Trainees
SE	Finance & Insurance	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$400,000.00	200
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NE	CDL	Pre-Hire Economic Development Grant	\$400,000.00	100
W	Accommodation & Food Services	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$188,000.00	90
SE	Professional & Technical	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$13,000.00	8
NE	Construction	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$4,000.00	1
SE	Professional & Technical	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$8,000.00	2
Statewide	Other Services (Except Public Admin.)	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$30,000.00	20
W	Accommodation & Food Services	Business Training Grants for New Position	\$61,000.00	43
Totals			\$1,304,000.00	664





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