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Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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News & Updates: September 25, 2013

[The Ohio Development Services Agency is Launching Round Two of the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program](#)

A **pre-application is now available** beginning September 4, 2013 for businesses who want financial help to train their current workforce. \$27 million in grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. **Applications for the grant program will be accepted for review on September 30, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

Please visit our website at http://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_wtvp.htm to review the guidelines and application instructions for this program and to access the pre-application.

Below, find answers to some of our most frequently asked questions. For additional assistance, contact Shannon Vanderpool at (614) 644-8560 or Shannon.Vanderpool@development.ohio.gov, Jennifer Spohr at (614) 466-4184 or Jennifer.Spohr@development.ohio.gov or Ted Kalo at (614) 644-6655 or Ted.Kalo@development.ohio.gov.

Answers to some frequently asked questions:

Who is eligible to apply for the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program?

An eligible employer is one who operates as a for-profit entity in a state-designated targeted industry, with a facility located in Ohio that has been in continuous operation for the 12 months immediately prior to the application submittal. Targeted industries are: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace and Aviation, Automotive, BioHealth, Corporate Headquarters, Energy, Financial Services, Food Processing, Information Technology and Services, Polymers and Chemicals, Back Office, Logistics, or Research and Development. The company's NAICS code (<http://www.naics.com/search.htm>) will determine eligibility as to the targeted industry.

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How will the Voucher for the program be awarded?

Vouchers will be awarded in the form of a Voucher Agreement between the Ohio Development Services Agency and the employer. The program will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the available funds are committed. After that time, applications will still be accepted and retained in a "queue" in the event that additional program funds become available.

The program allows for up to \$4,000 per employee per fiscal year. What is the timespan of the fiscal year?

The state of Ohio fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Please note, however, that the training period for this program will be between August 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

The program allows for \$250,000 per employer per fiscal year. How is that calculated?

Each employer (identified by Federal Employee Identification Number/FEIN) will be eligible for up to \$250,000 in assistance per fiscal year. The Voucher Agreement and any Supplements to the Master Voucher Agreement issued to an employer during the fiscal year, aggregated throughout all of its State of Ohio locations, will be included in this calculation. **Please note that only one application per employer will be accepted per program year. If an employer has multiple sites, those sites must work together to submit the one application.** An application may include multiple employees and multiple training courses.

What is the employer reimbursement amount for this program?

We will reimburse the employer for up to 50 percent of the cost of the training (up to \$4,000 per employee and/or up to \$250,000 per company) once the employer pays the full cost of the training. The employer's contribution must come from private sources and cannot include any previously acquired public funds. The match does not include wages.

After the application is submitted, how long does an employee have to begin the training?

Training must begin August 1, 2013 or later and must be completed by June 30, 2014.

When can the employee training begin?

While the Effective Date of the Agreement will be August 1, 2013, any costs incurred or monies expended by the applicant on the project prior to final approval and the execution of the written agreement, is done at the applicant's own risk. Applicant's decision to go forward does not obligate the State of Ohio to provide state assistance that has not received all required approvals or has not been memorialized in a written agreement between the applicant and the state of Ohio.

All training must begin August 1, 2013 or later and must be completed by June 30, 2014.

Does reimbursement apply even when the company has a tuition reimbursement program as part of its benefit package? Do the courses have to be strictly related to the business?

The OIWTVP will provide reimbursement funds for tuition courses when the course meets the needs of the applicant company. Therefore, the course must be required by the company and be job related, regardless of the requirement for a degree. **Tuition courses which are for the sole purpose of obtaining a Bachelor's or Master's degree are not eligible for this program.**

[Request for Proposals: State of the Region: Examining Changes to the Appalachian Region Since 1965](#)

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federally-funded partnership with the Appalachian states established in 1965 to promote the economic and social development of the Appalachian Region. ARC's Regional Planning and Research Division conducts research and evaluations regarding key economic, demographic, and quality of life factors that affect the current and future prospects of the Appalachian Region.

ARC invites proposals from qualified researchers and consultants to examine significant structural and socioeconomic changes to the Appalachian Region since 1965 and determine to what extent ARC's economic development investments have contributed to these changes. The purpose is to quantify and document changes to the Region during this time period, to evaluate ARC's contribution to the Region's economic development during this time period, and to determine to what extent Appalachia still remains "a region apart," geographically and statistically, from the rest of the nation. The final product will be a research report to be released by December 2014, as ARC prepares to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its inception.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **October 9, 2013**.

To download the RFP, visit: www.arc.gov/funding/ResearchContracts.asp

OSU Hosts Biz Launch Business Plan Competition

Southern Ohio's premier business plan competition is back!

Watch the video! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MK5JIWuIOiI>

**Let Your Plan
Launch Your
Business into
Success!**



Building the Future With Southern Ohio Business

**The competition is for
existing, expanding and new
start up companies in:**

**Adams, Brown, Gallia,
Highland, Jackson, Lawrence,
Scioto, Ross, Pike, and Vinton
Counties.**

**Business Plans Due:
October 15, 2013**

**Judging:
October 22 & 23, 2013**

**Awards Luncheon:
October 29, 2013**

**The OSU Endeavor Center
Piketon, Ohio**

***Cash Prizes Awarded to
the Top 3 Businesses!***

**For more information or assistance
with developing your plan, log on
to www.sbdc.osu.edu/bizlaunch
or call 740-289-2071, ext. 111**

**Biz Launch is a regional
business plan competition.
The OSU South Centers staff
is available to help with
your plan and competition
preparation!**



The Biz Launch Business Plan Competition is geared to provide an opportunity to grow and expand the ideas of entrepreneurs in Southern Ohio. This competition will be open businesses and individuals that will be starting a business in a ten county region of southern Ohio; Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton.

Businesses and individuals with a new business, early stage company, new product line or proposed expansion of an existing company are eligible to apply. To apply, applicants must submit a business plan and financial projections by Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Business plans will be screened and applicants will be notified if they are selected to move on to the presentation round that will be held on Tuesday, October 22 at the OSU South Centers Endeavor Center in Piketon. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three business plans.

The SBDC business development counselors are also available to meet with individuals or businesses one-on-one for business planning assistance.

For more information about the Biz Launch Business Plan Competition, including rules and templates, log onto www.sbdc.osu.edu/bizlaunch or contact Meagan Barnes at 740-289-2071 ext. 227.

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