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SWWDC Secures Funding to Train Long-term Unemployed for High-Demand Occupations

On-the-Job training funds available to employers

Vancouver, Wash. (Dec. 10, 2013) – The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) has been awarded a Dislocated Worker Training National Emergency Grant (DWT NEG) from the Department of Labor for \$148,465 to train long-term unemployed and dislocated workers in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties for high-demand occupations.

Through the grant, at least 20 individuals will receive training for jobs in advanced manufacturing, information technology or healthcare through On-the-Job Training (OJT) at employer sites, cohort trainings, which allow several employers to pool resources, or short-term classroom training and certifications for individuals. OJT offers employers the ability to hire and train eligible workers to their standards and, in turn, are reimbursed 50 percent of the new hire's gross wages for one to six months up to \$5,000.

“In this era of declining resources, we welcome the opportunity to further support businesses through On-the-Job Training, and workers through various training programs,” said Jeanne Bennett, Executive Director of the SWWDC. “Our role is to facilitate the funding to be sure employers get the right workers at the right time and to help workers develop the skills they need to get the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

WorkSource will identify and recruit candidates, determine eligibility, provide assessment and prepare candidates for training and employment opportunities. WorkSource's Business Services team will then match trained candidates with employers having those types of positions available.

Employers actively recruiting permanent hires in the next 90 days that are interested in taking advantage of these limited funds should contact Darcy Hoffman, Business Manager at WorkSource's business services unit at 360-735-5038 or DHoffman@esd.wa.gov.

To be eligible for the program, workers must be long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more), and have exhausted or are in danger of exhausting their unemployment benefits. Veterans will receive priority. Participants will also receive support services, case management and other provisions essential for successful program participation.

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Job seekers interested in training should contact WorkSource in Clark County at 360-735-5000 and in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties at 360-577-2250 to find out when the next WIA orientation will be held.

The Employment Security Department of Washington state was selected to receive the grant based on the successful performance of the state's Workforce Development Councils (WDC's) and the state's need.

In 2012, 178 people participated in an OJT program through WorkSource centers in our region; 91 percent completed the program which leads to full-time employment. In 2011 and 2012, more than 400 people in the tri-county area participated in training funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations to provide free employment and training services to job seekers, youth and employers. Learn more at www.swwdc.org.

WorkSource is a partnership of state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations that provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers. WorkSource assists employers to recruit and screen for qualified applicants, provide wage reimbursement opportunities through On-the-Job Trainings, and supply cost-savings information on employment tax credits. WorkSource serves more than 1,000 jobseekers and 200 businesses each month. For more information, visit www.go2worksource.com.

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