



U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Program of Competitive Grants for Worker Training and Placement in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors

Applicant: Oregon Health & Science University in collaboration with Work Systems, Inc., Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College and Clark College

Title: A Model Program for Multi-Level Training of the Health Information Technology Workforce

Target Industry: Health Care/Health Information Technology

Communities: Portland OR – Vancouver WA economic region

Funding Request: \$4,959,067

This project intends to develop a model program for building the health information technology (HIT) workforce in the Portland OR-Vancouver WA economic region. Based on needs identified from local employers and national data on the HIT workforce, this project intends to develop a series of short-term training experiences designed to rapidly train and employ displaced and incumbent workers in the field. A key component of the program will be to work with health care organizations and HIT companies to help achieve the “meaningful use” of HIT, which will not only improve the quality and safety of care but also increase the likelihood those organizations can attain the incentive payments for adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The guiding principles of the program will be to develop educational programs that:

1. Focus education on the discipline of clinical informatics, which aims to improve health care through understand of health care, information technology, and the advanced use of information that arises at their intersection.
2. Offer training guided by the needs of local employers and national employment data.
3. Provide education with multiple entry points based on employers’ needs and capabilities of students.
4. Insure that courses taken in short-term programs at each level can be applied toward later degree programs at those levels.
5. Achieve integration of curricula at different levels to insure efficient career ladders.

The project will develop short-term certificate programs based on mostly existing coursework that can be applied in later study toward established degree programs. The project will convene an Employer’s Council that will guide curricula development at different levels, provide internship experiences to students, and give strong consideration to hiring graduates. The local workforce investment boards will play substantial roles in identifying and triaging displaced workers in our programs, administering ITA support for trainees, and providing placement and retention assistance.

The projected performance outcomes of this project include:

- 412 participants enrolled in training
- 370 completing training
- 370 earning certificate
- 370 entering unsubsidized employment
- 370 entering training-related unsubsidized employment
- 370 attaining DOL retention standard (95% of unsubsidized employment)