

Bluegrass State Skills Corporation

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Competitive Grant-in-Aid (GIA)

Program Description

The BSSC's grant-in-aid program's basic purpose is to improve and promote employment opportunities for the residents of the Commonwealth through training grants with business and industry. The GIA program provides reimbursement dollars to companies/consortia for company specific training activities. For consideration a company must complete and submit an application and receive approval from the BSSC Board of Directors. Once the application is approved by the board the company can begin eligible training.

Project Funding

The maximum funding amount for individual companies during a BSSC fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) is as follows (based on the number of Kentucky resident full-time employees): \$25,000 (1-499); \$50,000 (500+). The Consortia maximum is \$75,000. The minimum application amount is \$2,500. The average training cost per trainee in any single training activity cannot exceed \$2,000 if the trainee average wage equals \$13.00 or less; \$3,000 if the trainee average wage equals \$13.01 to \$17.00; and \$4,000 if the trainee average wage equals \$17.01 or more.

Eligible Firms

The following firms are eligible to apply for BSSC funds: manufacturing, non-manufacturing (the majority of income for services provided must be generated outside of Kentucky based on the previous year's annual audited revenue), headquarter operations (the majority of services provided must be for facilities located outside the State of Kentucky), public or non-profit hospitals, and training consortia.

Eligible Training

The following training types are allowed under BSSC guidelines: Pre-Employment Skills Training, Workplace Essential Skills, Entry Level Skills Training, & Skills Upgrade Training. The following are examples of eligible training activities and methods: classroom & OJT training, innovative training techniques, individual assessment, train-the-trainer travel, tuition, and certification. Stand-alone safety, mandated training, trainee wages, retroactive training, and pro/con union training are not eligible.

Training Costs

The BSSC provides 50% reimbursement for eligible training activities. This training can be provided by an in-house trainer, a consultant, or an educational institution. BSSC will reimburse \$25 per hour (\$50 p/h total training) for all in-house training. To view specific rates, please visit www.thinkkentucky.com/bssc or request a copy of the BSSC guidelines.

Eligible Employees

Participants in the GIA program must be residents of Kentucky who are full-time employees of the applicant company. Eligible employees must make a minimum of \$9.83 per hour without fringe plus 15% benefits.

Application Scoring

An application must score at least 25 points to be eligible for consideration by the BSSC Board of Directors. For full scoring criteria refer to the BSSC guidelines.

