

B. The Consortium for Worker Education - Job Training and Placement Services (W535)

November 19, 2009

- Grantee:** The Consortium for Worker Education (“CWE”)
- ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$125,000 to be used to expand access to basic education and workforce preparatory skills, as well as related programs and services, in the Bronx.
- Project Location:** Bronx, Bronx County
- NYS Empire Zone:** Port Morris Empire Zone
- Project Completion:** November 2010
- Number of Trainees:** Sixty (60)
- Grantee Contact:** John K. McDermott, Executive Assistant
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New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-647-1900 Fax: 212-647-1915
- Project Team:** Project Management Isaac J. Elliston
Affirmative Action Denise Ross
Environmental Soo Kang

Project Description:

Background

The Consortium for Worker Education was founded in 1985, and provides adult basic education, industry specific training and workforce preparatory programs. The CWE is primarily funded through the Department of Education and the New York City Council. It started as a resource for union members who were preparing for promotional exams. CWE’s core programs are English as a Second Language (“ESL”), High School Equivalency Diploma, computer and software operation, and workforce preparatory skills. CWE facilitates the training of 80,000 workers annually.

From 1995-1999, the ESD Directors approved a project in the amount of \$87,500 at the CWE. These funds were used to provide on-the-job training for employees at two large manufacturing firms in Queens: Sequins International and Eagle Electric. Approximately sixty-five employees were trained in modern manufacturing methods such as total quality management and continuous improvement. This project was completed and approximately \$26,000 was disbursed. CWE did not request the balance of the funds, as it was unable to provide ESD with the required accounting information needed to process further disbursements. In order to prevent a recurrence with the subject grant, funds have been specifically allocated for accounting services.

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The Project

The CWE entered into an agreement with The South Bronx Overall Community Economic Development Corporation (“SOBRO”) to train sixty students at SOBRO’s facility in the South Bronx. SOBRO will provide recruitment, assessment, education, career training, and placement services for the participants. The objective is to present the participants with an array of training modules so that they may become qualified to enter the workforce. The students will be recruited from CWE and SOBRO’s database of Bronx residents that seek remedial education and employment. They will learn ESL, prepare for the general equivalency diploma and become computer literate. In addition, participants will be offered industry specific training, job placement assistance and preparatory skills in the home health care and retail industries. Graduates of the retail industry tract will receive the National Retail Foundation Customer Service and Retail Certificate, and the home health care graduates will be certified by the Bronx Educational Opportunity Center. CWE anticipates that thirty-eight people will complete the basic training: twenty-two of these will complete the home health care training and the remaining sixteen will complete the National Retail Federation customer service training. In addition, the participants will be eligible to receive assistance under Jobs to Build On, an education, training and employment service available through the CWE-SOBRO network.

The project is scheduled to begin this month, with the first two months devoted to student and staff recruitment and assessment. There will be three, eighteen-week cycles with twenty students in each cycle. Classes will be conducted in the evenings and on Saturday mornings. CWE and SOBRO staff will guide the graduates through job search. It is anticipated that twenty-four participants will obtain employment.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project, including the number of employees trained.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Recruitment	\$13,200	ESD Grant	\$125,000	100%
Instructors' Fees	40,640			
Fringe Benefits	12,633			
Supplies	4,191			
Classroom Rental	18,207			
Contract Administration	14,500			
Utilities	4,629			
Maintenance and repairs	3,750			
Project Accounting Service	2,000			
Hardware/Software & HR Assistance re: recruitment/retention	11,250			
Total Project Costs	\$125,000	Total Project Financing	\$125,000	100%

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Statutory Basis – Community Projects Fund:

The project is reappropriated in the 2009-2010 New York State budget. No residential relocation is required as there are no families or individuals residing on the site.

Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee's certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.