

Just the Facts:

Bluegrass State Skills Corporation (BSSC) Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Program

Program Description

The competitive grant-in-aid program's basic purpose is to improve and promote employment opportunities for the residents of Kentucky through training grants with business and industry. The GIA program provides up to 50% reimbursement of eligible costs to companies/consortia for approved training activities. Consortia projects, which promote collaborative training initiatives for companies that have common training needs, must be industry driven and be a partnership between business/industry, education, and government working together to maximize the effectiveness of the current and future workforce. For GIA grant funding consideration a company must complete and submit an application and receive approval from the Bluegrass State Skills Corporation 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 \$25,000 for companies with 1–499 employees and \$50,000 for companies with 500 or more employees. The consortia funding maximum is \$75,000. Funding cannot exceed the number of trainees multiplied by \$2,000. The minimum application amount is \$6,000.

Eligible Firms

The following firms are eligible to apply for BSSC funds: manufacturing; service and technology (non-retail); public or non-profit hospitals; and training consortia with three or more eligible companies. Any business whose primary purpose is the sale of goods at retail does not qualify.

Eligible Training

The following training types are allowed under GIA guidelines: in-house training; educational institution and consultant training; instructional materials, texts and supplies; trainee wages and registered apprenticeship training – year one apprentices. For consortia, a minimum of three BSSC eligible firms must participate in any single training category (new consortia may be eligible for an exception). Stand-alone safety, mandated training, regulatory training, retroactive training, and pro/con union training are not eligible.

Training Costs

The GIA allows up to 50% reimbursement for eligible training activities. GIA allows reimbursement of \$25 per hour for all in-house training. The total reimbursement cannot exceed an average of \$2,000 per trainee.

Eligible Employees

Participants in the GIA program must be residents of Kentucky who are full-time employees of the applicant company. Eligible employees must be paid the equivalent of at least \$10.88 per hour plus 15% benefits.

Application Process and Scoring

Subject to funding availability, applications are accepted throughout the year prior to scheduled board meetings. An application must receive a score of at least 70 points to receive funding consideration. Grant funds are limited, which may preclude all eligible applications from being funded. Consortia applications promoting collaborative training receive priority consideration. For additional information about the Grant-in-Aid program, including the application deadline schedule, refer to www.KentuckySkillsNetwork.com or, contact Josh Benton, Executive Director of Workforce Development at Joshua.Benton@ky.gov or Kristina Thompson, Project Manager at Kristina.Thompson@ky.gov or (502) 564-2021.

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To learn more, contact:
Josh Benton
Joshua.Benton@ky.gov
Phone: (502) 564-7140
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