TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP
Paducah, Kentucky

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About the Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to promote and encourage the economic development of the lower Mississippi River region and Alabama Black Belt. DRA invests in projects supporting transportation infrastructure, basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development. DRA’s mission is to help create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of those who reside in the 252 counties and parishes of the eight-state region.
February 28, 2020

Dear DRA Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Delta Regional Authority, welcome to Paducah, Kentucky for the Delta Workforce Program’s Technical Assistance Workshop. I am excited to have attendees from western Kentucky represented here today to discuss critical issues impacting our region’s economic competitiveness and quality of life. More specifically, I am pleased to present our agency’s partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to deploy $29.2 million in Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Grants in the Delta and Appalachian regions. This grant opportunity is unique to our region and will support industry-driven workforce training and education for job seekers residing in our rural communities.

To complement this federal initiative, DRA is making available $1.5 million in Delta Workforce Program grants and offering post-award technical assistance to grantees. Most importantly, though, DRA is offering eight technical assistance workshops to help our region’s stakeholders develop competitive applications for both grant programs.

I want to thank you for being here. With your commitment to building sustainable workforce talent pipelines, I am confident we will continue to accelerate our economic development efforts throughout the Mississippi River Delta region.

Sincerely,

Chris Caldwell
Federal Co-Chairman
Delta Regional Authority
AGENDA
Paducah, Kentucky

7:00am – 8:00am  Registration (Breakfast provided)

8:00am – 8:15am  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Chris Caldwell, Federal Co-Chairman, Delta Regional Authority
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

8:30am – 9:30am  Keynote Address: Workforce Development in Western Kentucky
Jay K. Box, Ed. D., President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Workforce development and economic development are inextricably linked in the modern economy. To ensure the prosperity of rural economies, workers and employers must adapt to meet ever-changing demands and opportunities. In this session, participants will be exposed to Kentucky’s community and technical college system and how it is addressing the needs of industry and job seekers through tailored workforce training models in western Kentucky.

9:45am – 10:00am  Networking Break

10:15am – 11:15am  DOL’s Workforce Opportunity in Rural Communities (WORC) Grant Program: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

In this session, a representative from the Delta Regional Authority will introduce the U.S. Department of Labor’s WORC initiative and provide a comprehensive overview of the funding opportunity to help participants develop competitive applications.

11:30am – 12:15 pm  Networking Lunch (Lunch provided)

12:30pm – 1:30pm  Lightning Talk: 2019 U.S. Department of Labor WORC Grantee
David Schuermer, Director of Grants, Planning, and Effectiveness, Madisonville Community College
Craig Dixon, Grants Specialist, Madisonville Community College

In this session, a 2019 U.S. Department of Labor WORC grantee will provide an example of a successful workforce training program in the Mississippi River Delta region and discuss strategies for building innovative partnerships with industry and higher education to attain workforce outcomes in rural areas. Additionally, the speaker will discuss key strategies for developing and submitting competitive proposals to public entities.

1:45pm – 2:30pm  Creating a Competitive Proposal
Delta Regional Authority Staff and Program Consultants

In this session, participants will learn how to build an effective workforce development program, how to scale, create a strong workforce pipeline attractive for existing and prospective businesses, and how to articulate that vision into a competitive grant proposal.

2:45pm – 3:15pm  Q & A

3:30pm  Closing Remarks
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority
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Speaker Biographies

Chris Caldwell, **Federal Co-Chairman, Delta Regional Authority**
Appointed by President Donald J. Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Chris assumed the role of Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority on Jan. 12, 2018. As Federal Co-Chairman, Caldwell leads the agency’s operations and is responsible for DRA’s strategic investments that promote economic development in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. Caldwell is a 7th-generation Arkansan and has extensive experience in political and government service. Before being confirmed as DRA chairman, Caldwell served as the director of special projects for U.S. Senator John Boozman of Arkansas. Caldwell was the campaign manager for Boozman’s 2016 re-election campaign, as well as the political director for Boozman’s 2010 Senate campaign. He has also served on several other campaigns, including Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee’s 2008 presidential bid and Arkansas Senator Tim Hutchinson’s 2002 Senate campaign. Beyond his political and government service, Caldwell has held various roles in the private sector and is an active volunteer in his community. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication from the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Caldwell resides in Little Rock with his wife Ashley and their two children.

Aury Kangelos, **Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority**
Aury joined the Delta Regional Authority in July of 2018 following three years at Clemson University where he is working towards completing a PhD in Public Policy with a focus in regional economic development. Aury oversees multiple DRA initiatives, including the Delta Leadership Institute, and other federal partnerships. Aury has experience in local, state, and the Federal government serving in the Development Office for the Town of Collierville, TN and the Office of Community Transportation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Tennessee at Martin, a master’s degree in City and Regional Planning with a focus in economic development from the University of Memphis, and a Master of Science in Applied Economics and Statistics from Clemson University. Aury is also a graduate of the University of Memphis Herff College of Engineering’s Freight Transportation Leadership Academy. Originally from Union City, TN, Aury, his wife Sarah, and son Jameson recently relocated back to Memphis.

Jay K. Box, **Ed. D., President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System**
Dr. Jay K. Box was named the second president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) on November 19, 2014. He is a community college graduate and has more than 30 years of experience in community college leadership. Dr. Box has a history of leadership within KCTCS, having served as the president of Hazard Community and Technical College from 2002 – 2007, followed by being named KCTCS vice president. In 2009, he was named chancellor and served in that role until being selected president of the System.

Prior to joining KCTCS, Dr. Box served as a vice president at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas. Dr. Box was appointed to the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who co-chairs the board with Advisor to the President, Ivanka Trump. The board brings together members from diverse backgrounds including educational institutions, state and local governments and CEOs from several major companies such as Apple, Walmart, Visa and Lockheed Martin. Dr. Box is the only community college system president on the council. He also serves on the national board for Rebuilding America’s Middle Class, the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, the Kentucky Business-Education Roundtable and is an ex-officio board member of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Box received an associate degree from Howard College, a bachelor’s degree in education from Southwest Texas State University, a master’s degree in education from Texas Tech University and a doctorate in educational administration, higher education/community college specialty from Baylor University.
Speaker Biographies

David Schuermer, Director of Grants, Planning, and Effectiveness, Madisonville Community College
David has served as Director of Grants, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness for Madisonville Community College since 1999. In this position, he oversees development and preparation of grant proposals, coordinates the college's on-going planning and evaluation processes, directs institutional research support, and serves as the college's Accreditation Liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. He holds both the M.A in English Language and Literature and M.Ed. in English Education from the University of Virginia, and the B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Kentucky.

Craig Dixon, Grants Specialist, Madisonville Community College
Craig holds the M.S. in Computer Science from Western Kentucky University and the B.S. in Computer Science from Murray State University. He joined the staff of Madisonville Community College in 2005, first as webmaster and later as a grants specialist. Since he began writing grants in 2011, he has helped secure almost $10 million in grant funding from sources such as the National Science Foundation, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Delta Regional Authority, and several state agencies and private foundations. He currently co-chairs the Kentucky Community and Technical College System's Sponsored Projects Peer Team.
U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce Opportunity in Rural Communities (WORC) Grant Program
10:15am – 11:15am

In this session, a representative from the Delta Regional Authority will provide a comprehensive explanation of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the U.S. Department of Labor’s WORC grant program to assist prospective applicants and partners in developing competitive proposals. This session will also include a high-level overview of the $1.5 million Delta Workforce Grant Program.

Speakers:
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

Key Takeaways:
• WORC is a $29.2 million grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with DRA and the Appalachian Regional Commission.
• WORC grants address workforce training and education for dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce.
• The Delta Workforce Grant Program is a $1.5 million grant program administered by DRA to invest in industry-led workforce training programs.
• Both WORC and Delta Workforce Grant Program application proposals must include industry partnerships to address the skills gap and place individuals in high quality jobs.
• WORC funding cycle is tentatively scheduled for March – May 2020.
• The Delta Workforce Grant Program funding cycle is June 1 – August 30, 2020.

Additional Resources:
• For more information about the Delta Workforce Program, visit www.dra.gov/workforce
• To review the WORC Funding Opportunity Announcement, visit www.grants.gov
• To review the Delta Workforce Grant Program’s Request for Proposals, visit www.dra.gov/workforce (beginning June 1, 2020)
• For more information about DRA’s Regional Development Plan III and DRA State Plans, visit www.dra.gov/plans.

Contact Information:
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager
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In this session, a 2019 U.S. Department of Labor WORC grantee will provide an example of a successful workforce training program in western Kentucky and discuss strategies for building innovative partnerships with industry and higher education to attain workforce outcomes in rural areas. Additionally, the speakers will discuss key strategies for developing and submitting competitive proposals to public entities.

Speakers:
David Schuermer, Director of Grants, Planning, and Effectiveness, Madisonville Community College
Craig Dixon, Grants Specialist, Madisonville Community College

Key Takeaways:
• In 2019, Madisonville Community College (MCC) was awarded $1,258,842 by the U.S. Department of Labor WORC grant program to jointly create and deliver a four-week Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training course with Henderson Community College (HCC). Recognizing the demand for transportation and utility professionals, the community colleges are also expanding MCC’s lineman training program into HCC’s service area.
• Since utility companies require linemen to hold a CDL as a condition of employment, the community colleges are delivering both lineman and CDL training in one location to meet this need.
• Madisonville Community College and Henderson Community College have built strategic partnerships with regional businesses and public and private entities to create a one-stop shop for individuals seeking employment in a six-county region, including: Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Union, and Webster counties.

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Craig Dixon, Grants Specialist
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Creating a Competitive Proposal
1:45pm – 2:30pm

In this session, participants will breakout into groups to discuss how to build an effective workforce development program, how to scale, and how to create a strong workforce pipeline attractive for existing businesses, industry expansion and relocation, and prospective residents alike. Delta Regional Authority staff and program consultants will facilitate discussion by addressing key components of WORC’s Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Facilitators:
Delta Regional Authority Staff and Program Consultants

Key Takeaways:
- The purpose of the WORC grant program is to meet the needs of industry and job seekers by strengthening workforce development models to place individuals in quality jobs.
- Innovative partnerships between industry, higher education, training providers, and wraparound services are essential to develop and maintain a strong workforce ecosystem.
- Outputs and outcomes should be realistic and attainable and must be considered when developing the program design of a workforce initiative.

Additional Resources:
- To review the Funding Opportunity Announcement from the 2019 WORC grant cycle, visit: https://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/FOA-ETA-19-08.pdf
- For a list of past awards for the U.S. Department of Labor WORC grant program, visit: https://www.doleta.gov/DWGs/WORC/Grant-Awards/
- For more information on industry-recognized workforce training materials, visit Skills Commons: (http://www.skillscommons.org/)

Contact Information:
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General questions? Email workforce@dra.gov.
APPENDIX
ABOUT
The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) works to improve regional economic opportunity by helping to create jobs, build communities, and improve lives for the 10 million people who reside in the 252 counties and parishes of the eight-state Delta region. Led by the Delta Regional Authority Board -- comprised of the Federal Co-Chairman, appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and the governors of the eight states -- DRA fosters local and regional partnerships that address economic and social challenges to ultimately strengthen the Delta economy and the quality of life for Delta residents.

DRA REGION
Per federal statute, DRA’s region includes 252 counties and parishes across eight states, collectively designated the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama regions.

Participating states include:
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Tennessee

FUNDING PRIORITIES
- Basic Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Business Development & Entrepreneurship
- Workforce Development

Determination of a Distressed County/Parish:
Unemployment rate of one percent higher (5.2 percent) than the national average (4.2 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.
ORGANIZATION

Chris R. Caldwell
Federal Co-Chairman

Governor
John Bel Edwards
States’ Co-Chairman

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ALABAMA
Governor
Kay Ivey

ARKANSAS
Governor
Asa Hutchinson

ILLINOIS
Governor
J.B. Pritzker

KENTUCKY
Governor
Andy Beshear

LOUISIANA
Governor
John Bel Edwards

MISSISSIPPI
Governor
Tate Reeves

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Delta Regional Authority 101

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS

• States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)
• Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)
• Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (PWEAA)
• Delta Doctors
• Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)

• Rural Communities Advancement Program (RCAP)
  - Delta Leadership Institute (DLI)
  - Delta Workforce Program
  - Rural Community Development Program
  - USDA-Rural Development State Director Partnership
• Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Technical Assistance Program
Local Development Districts
Local Development Districts

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