

## Colorado FIRST/Existing Industry Customized Job Training

The mission of Colorado customized job training programs is to provide job-training grants to companies that are locating or expanding in Colorado. Through the job training programs, Colorado invests in its labor force. The program will increase transferable job skills that support both the company's economic competitiveness by re-training its workers in new skills, while enhancing the workers' resumes and long-term employment opportunities.

### Colorado First Customized Job Training Program

This program provides financial assistance and helps individual businesses to design specialized training through a cooperative effort with the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System. Colorado First is intended for new hires. Group training for small business with similar needs is available. The grant may provide:

- Instructor's wages
- Curriculum Development
- The purchase of consumable training supplies

### Colorado Existing Industry Job Training Program

This program provides assistance to established Colorado businesses in order to:

- Remain competitive
- Adapt to new technology
- Prevent layoffs

### Key Facts about the Colorado First and Existing Industry Job Training Program

- These training programs will receive \$2.7 million in funding for the 2011 – 2012 program year
- Colorado First grant applications are reviewed on a monthly basis starting August - April, or until all funds are expended
- Existing Industry Grant applications are reviewed in a competitive process by the administering agencies two times per fiscal year\*\*
- Grant funded training must occur within July 1st - May 31st of the fiscal year\*\* that the grant is awarded

\*\*The program fiscal years runs July 1st until June 30th of the preceding year.

To apply for a job-training grant or locate a Community College or area vocational school, visit <http://www.cccs.edu/FindCollege.html>.

If your company is planning to expand or relocate to Colorado, please contact the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade directly at 303-892-3840.

To download information and application forms from the Community Colleges website, go to [www.cccs.edu/workforce/trainingfunds.html](http://www.cccs.edu/workforce/trainingfunds.html).

To list or search job openings, contact the Colorado Workforce Centers at [www.coworkforce.com/EMP/](http://www.coworkforce.com/EMP/).

### All grant applications for both programs must meet the following criteria:

- *Maximum grant award of \$800.00 per employee.*
- *All grant-funded training must be customized to meet the company's specific needs.*
- *Grant funded training must be for permanent, full-time, non-seasonal, non-retail positions in the state of Colorado, which have significant career opportunities and require substantive instruction.*
- *Applicant companies must pay for a minimum of 40% of the total training costs.*
- *Grants will only be awarded to companies that meet a sustainable wage threshold: in urban areas, employers must pay an average wage of at least \$10.46/hour; average wages in rural areas must be at least \$8.21/hour.*
- *A financial evaluation of the applicant company is required.*
- *An on-site visit of the applicant company is required.*