

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration**

[TA-W-53,680]

U.S. Axle, Inc., Pottstown, PA; Dismissal of Application for Reconsideration

Pursuant to 29 CFR 90.18(C) an application for administrative reconsideration was filed with the Director of the Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers at U.S. Axle, Inc., Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The application contained no new substantial information which would bear importantly on the Department's determination. Therefore, dismissal of the application was issued.

TA-W-53,680; U.S. Axle, Inc. Pottstown, Pennsylvania (March 17, 2004)

Signed at Washington, DC, this 30th day of March, 2004.

Timothy Sullivan,

Director, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

[FR Doc. 04-7752 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Grants for Small Grassroots Organizations**

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration (ETA)/ Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI), Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications (SGA). This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding (SGA/DFA 04-104).

Catalog of Federal Assistance No.: 17.257.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announces the availability of \$1,000,000 to award grants to eligible "grass-roots" organizations with the ability to connect to the local One-Stop delivery system. The term grassroots' is defined under the Eligibility Criteria.

DATES: Applications will be accepted commencing on April 6, 2004. The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is May 7, 2004. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (e.s.t.) at the address below: No exceptions to the mailing and hand-

delivery conditions set forth in this notice will be granted. Applications that do not meet the conditions set forth in this notice will not be honored. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be honored.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Part I. Authorities**

These grants are made under the following authorities:

- The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA or the Act) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*)
- The WIA Final Rule, 20 CFR parts 652, 660-671 (65 FR 49294 (August 11, 2000);
- Executive Order 13198; "Rallying the Armies of Compassion"
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter 17-01 ("Incorporating and Utilizing"
- Grassroots, Community-Based Organizations Including Faith-Based Organizations in Workforce Investment Activities and Programs")
- Executive Order 13279; "Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations"

II. Funding Opportunity Description**A. Overview of the Workforce Investment Act**

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) established a comprehensive reform of existing Federal job training programs with amendments impacting service delivery under the Wagner-Peyser Act, Adult Education and Literacy Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. A number of other Federal programs are also identified as required partners in the One-Stop delivery system to provide comprehensive services for all Americans to access the information and resources available that can help in the achievement of their career goals. The intention of the One-Stop system is to establish a network of programs and providers in co-located and integrated settings that are accessible for individuals and businesses alike in approximately 600 workforce investment areas established throughout the nation. There are currently over 1,900 comprehensive Centers and over 1,600 affiliated Centers across the United States. WIA established State and Local Workforce Investment Boards focused on strategic planning, policy development, and oversight of the workforce investment system, and accorded significant authority to the nation's Governors and local chief elected officials to further implement innovative and comprehensive delivery systems. The vision, goals and

objectives for workforce development under the WIA decentralized system are fully described in the State strategic plan required under Section 112 of the legislation. This State strategic workforce investment plan—and the operational experience gained by all the partners to date in implementing the WIA-instituted reforms—help identify the important "unmet needs" and latent opportunities to expand access to One-Stop by all the population segments within the local labor market.

B. Administration Strategy**Engagement of Faith-Based and Community Organizations Under the Workforce Investment Act**

On January 29, 2001, President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13198, creating the Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the White House and centers in the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education (ED), Justice (DOJ). President Bush charged the Cabinet centers with identifying statutory, regulatory, and bureaucratic barriers that stand in the way of effective faith-based and community initiatives, and to ensure, consistent with the law, that these organizations have equal opportunity to compete for federal funding and other support.

In early 2002, the Department's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) and ETA developed and issued Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGAs) to engage intermediary and grass-roots organizations in our workforce system-building. These SGAs were designed to involve the faith-based and community-based organizations in service delivery, strengthen their existing partnership with the local One-Stop delivery system, while providing additional points of entry for customers into that system.

These 2002 grants embodied the Department's principal strategy for implementing the Executive Order by creating new avenues through which qualified organizations can more fully participate under the Workforce Investment Act while applying their particular strengths and assets in service provision to our customers. These *solicitations* also proceeded from an ETA-CFBCI mutual premise: that the involvement of community-based organizations and faith-based organizations can both complement and supplement the efforts of local workforce investment systems in providing universal access and serving