

MICROENTERPRISE

Program Survey

Program Name: Self Employment Assistance (SEA) Program

Web Address: N/A

Office\Agency: US Department of Labor
Unemployment Insurance Service

Address: Room S-4231
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Program Contact: Wayne Gordon

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Eligible Applicants: States (Workforce Development Agencies)

Type of Assistance: Income supporting payments, training, counseling & TA

Application Process: States submit program plan to US DOL for legislative and programmatic review.

Target Population: Unemployed Workers (unemployment insurance claimants at risk of becoming long-term unemployment)

Types of Services Provided to Target Population by Grantees\Recipients:

Loans and loan guarantees - UI Income support payments provided. Some states assist participants.

Business Training/ Technical Assistance - Varies across states

Other -

Available Funding: No direct funding available

Average Award:

Status\Achievements of Program:

- Thus far, eleven States have enacted SEA legislation, and eight States have implemented SEA programs serving unemployed workers: New York, Maine, Oregon, Delaware, New Jersey, California, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.
- Self-employment programs have been and remain small programs, currently serving less than 1 percent of all Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients. Slightly over 2,600 individuals participated in SEA programs during 1996 in the five States that had operational programs at that time (New York, Oregon, Maine, Delaware, and New Jersey). Data for CY 1997 is not yet available.
- Based on program data from State Annual Reports to USDOL from the first four States to implement SEA programs (New York, Oregon, Maine, and Delaware), over two-thirds of SEA participants in each State started their own businesses, and between 18 and 50 percent also worked in wage and salary jobs.
- The initial 5-year authorization period for the SEA program was due to expire in December 1998. The Clinton Administration proposed a reauthorization of the program in an Unemployment Insurance Reform bill (the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1998) that was introduced in April 1998. The program was recently made permanent by H.R. 4558 (a miscellaneous amendments bill), which was enacted in October 1998.

Other Related Websites:

MICROENTERPRISE

Program Survey

Program Name: Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)
Microenterprise Grant Program

Web Address:

Office\Agency: US Department of Labor
Office of Policy and Research
Employment and Training Administration

Address: Room N 5637
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Program Contact: Richard Muller

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Eligible Applicants: States (definition includes sub states - indian or native american grantees under 401 of JTPA and substate migrant and seasonal farm work grantees under 402 of JTPA.

Type of Assistance: Funding for projects to provide capacity building for program staff and training and technical assistance for eligible participants.

Application Process: Competitive in response to solicitation for grant applications.

Target Population: Economically disadvantaged persons who qualify as dislocated under the provisions of Sec. 301 of JTPA.

Types of Services Provided to Target Population by Grantees\Recipients:

Loans and loan guarantees - A service provided but not with Grant funding

Business Training/ Technical Assistance - Yes

Other -

Available Funding:

Average Award: \$250,000 per year/based on last competition

Status\Achievements of Program:

Current grants have just begun the second year of program operations (of projected 2 year cycle). It is premature to discuss achievements, except that there have been significant capacity building activities. There is a major evaluation in place that should provide valuable insights into what has been accomplished.

Other Related Websites: