

Montana Department of Commerce
Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program
(MCA 39-11)

History: - The 59th Montana Legislature passed House Bill 270 (HB 270), a workforce-training act created to provide funding to meet the training needs of employees working in expanding primary sector industries in Montana. Governor Schweitzer signed HB 270 into law on April 28, 2005.

Decision Making - A seven-member Statutory Grant Review Committee (MCA 39-11-201), consisting of both public and private members, makes the actual grant award decisions.

Funding - During the current biennium, a total of \$8 million was appropriated for Workforce Training Grants.

Business Eligibility -

- Primary sector business
- Create **at least 1 new jobs** in Montana;
- Pay trainees **at least the average wage for the area (state or county -- whichever is lowest)**. **Benefits may be included**
- **Have a need for education or training** for the new employees; and
- **Demonstrate that the business expansion is financially feasible.**

Grant Award Ceiling and Thresholds

- The maximum grant award is **\$5,000 for each new job.**
- Business must create at least **1 new jobs.**

Match Requirements

- **\$1 for every \$3 awarded.**

Eligible Costs

- All necessary and incidental costs of providing workforce training and education directed to the new jobs are eligible for a grant.

Applications for funding must include

- Business Plan, Financial Statements for three previous years, Projections for two coming years, Hiring and Training Plan

Clawback

- Company is required to sign a contract specifying terms of the grant and repayment requirements should the company fail to maintain the jobs, wage levels or training specified in the grant application.

Reporting

- Required **six-month progress reports** to the Department until the goals contained in the plan have been achieved. **Payment occurs only after documenting the creation of eligible jobs, the hiring for those jobs, and after incurring eligible training expenses.**