

NEWS

For immediate release

Media Contact

Jean Dalmath
585-586-6650 (Direct)
585-755-6911 (Mobile)
jdalmath@dalmath.com

Finger Lakes Wired to Award More Training Grants to Regional Businesses

*Rochester, NY –November 26, 3008—*Finger Lakes Wired (www.fingerlakeswired.com) has announced that it has new grant funding available for businesses in the nine-county Finger Lakes Region (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates counties) to upgrade worker skills.

Businesses in emerging industries are encouraged to apply for up to \$25,000 in training funds for training that can be completed within three months, and will lead to the acquisition of industry-recognized certifications/credentials, supervisory and managerial skills training, process/productivity improvement, and/or in-demand technical and occupational skills.

Emerging Industries are defined as Advanced Manufacturing, Alternative Energy, Bio/Life Sciences, Business Services, Engineering, Food & Agriculture, Health Care, Information Technology, and Optics/Imaging.

As Finger Lakes Wired has become more knowledgeable of the needs of the Finger Lakes Wired targeted-industries, modifications have been made to make the program more responsive to helping businesses compete locally and globally and to empower the region's workforce with skills that are in-demand and transferable.

“Studies indicate that as many as 46% of people who start jobs today may not be in those jobs 18 months from now,” said Pat Piles, Project Manager for Wired. “The reasons are often due to lack of basic employability skills. So that’s why we are looking to fund training that will lead to specific competencies and skills that employers know can help workers become more productive and increase employee retention.”

Since Finger Lakes Wired was established in 2006, it has helped regional businesses stay competitive in a global economy with more than \$3 million dollars in funding to train more than 5000 incumbent workers.

The criteria for evaluating new applications for funding will include alignment with Competency Model concepts, which describe the capabilities (competencies), related

knowledge, skills, and abilities acknowledged to be necessary to perform tasks in a defined work setting.

Training may include developing management competencies, developing employees' technical/occupational skill competencies or implementing process or productivity improvement initiatives (such as Lean, ISO, Six Sigma, Sarbanes Oxley, etc). Applicants are also required to provide matching funds equal to the amount of funds requested.

Application and More Information

An application, detailed information and a budget worksheet is available at www.fingerlakeswired.com. For assistance or more information please contact Kristina Ioele, Finger Lakes Wired, 255 North Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14607, (585) 258-3548.

Finger Lakes Wired was created to link the communities of education, workforce development and economic development, creating an entrepreneurial, industry-driven, integrated system. It was one of the first of several regions funded by the U. S. Department of Labor WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Initiative. The designation has brought millions of dollars to the nine-county area surrounding Rochester (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates), to increase entrepreneurship and innovation, expand employment, advance opportunities for workers, and enhance the talent of the workforce through the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities.

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