

Ohio's Participation in the NIFL Worker Grant

The grant has a four tiered structure: national, interstate, state and local levels. On the national level, a national advisory council will ensure that the developing standards articulates with the school-to-work, DOL skills standards and industry standards that are already in place. The national advisory council will help disseminate the Equipped for the Future model through pilots with their pilot projects, and through identifying other stakeholders who they can involve in this process. There are formal Memorandum of Agreements with the US Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education. This national advisory council will meet three times in the Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the NIFL grant meetings.

On the state level, each state will convene a working group based on defined criteria. Each state will examine the worker role through a targeted industry. Part of the grant money will be awarded as mini-grants to workplace sites within the targeted industry. Those sites will be working with the NIFL Equipped for the Future framework (yet to be released) as the baseline to explore the key activities and knowledge adults need to know and be able to do to be a successful worker. These mini-grants will involve practitioners and adult learners.

Each state will have a working group. This group will meet periodically to examine the generative skills necessary for workers to succeed.

The outcomes of this project will map, through a consensus building process, the following results for what adults need to know and be able to do in their role as a worker:

1. Broad areas of responsibility, activities, knowledge and skills for workers agreed upon by all grantees, NIFL staff and NIFL policy group.
2. Content standards for worker role and suggested standards which cross roles leading to the generative skills, yet to be constructed.
3. Performance indicators for each content standard and cross standards.
4. Validation strategies of standards and perform indicators which ease national implementation to a pilot stage.