

10/14/2009

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Executive Secretariat

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL RECORD

CORRESPONDENCE ID: 579714

DUE DATE: 10/28/2009

ORIGINATOR: Brown, Sherrod (Sen)
ADDRESSED TO: Solis
CONSTITUENT:
WH ID NUMBER:
ORGANIZATION: BioOhio
DATE OF LETTER: 10/6/2009
SUBJECT: Support Grant for the Healthcare & High Growth Prog for the Bioscience Industry

ACTION AGENCY: ETA

DATE Routed: 10/14/2009

SIGNATURE LEVEL: APPROP

REMARKS:

INFO COPIES TO: D/S; NR; ASP; OCIA

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION:

RETAIN WITH ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE
IF THE DUE DATE CANNOT BE MET,
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SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

579714

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2009

The Honorable Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

As the Department of Labor considers applications for the Healthcare Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries grant program (SGA-DFA PY 09-01), I would like to bring to your attention a proposal submitted by BioOhio, in partnership with various Ohio based institutions and organizations.

As you know, Ohio's economy has been particularly hurt by the economic downturn; however, the bioscience industry is growing and is a key component to our economic recovery. If awarded funding, the BioOhio grant could significantly transform the workforce development system for this emerging industry and provide jobs for Ohioans.

The statewide proposal aims to increase awareness, develop curriculum, and enhance delivery models that support research and development in the bioscience and bio-manufacturing sectors. The initiative will help engage employers throughout the state through coordinated outreach and education within the Ohio workforce system and create opportunities for workers to transition to the emerging bioscience industry with the necessary training and skills.

BioOhio has partnered with six community colleges from across Ohio, that include: Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Sinclair Community College, Owens Community College, Columbus State Community College, Cuyahoga Community College, and Lakeland Community College. BioOhio has stated that the community colleges will work closely with the AFL-CIO and UAW affiliates to engage workers transitioning from the auto and industrial manufacturing industries to the emerging bioscience and bio-manufacturing industries. The project would create a system that would target the needs of employers for highly skilled workers, and match them with the current workforce pursuing careers in the highly growing health care industry. Such an initiative will develop a process for continued training and advancement, while offering viable career options for an Ohio workforce that is second to none.

As the Department considers the application, I believe it will find that the objectives of BioOhio's proposal are closely aligned with the goals of the program. Please give careful consideration to the application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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