



Finger Lakes Partnership
www.fingerlakeswired.org

NEWS

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Finger Lakes Partnership (WIRED) Announces First Funding Opportunity for Regional Businesses

\$650,000 Available to Upgrade Worker Skills to Meet Demands of Emerging Industries

UPDATE: Fund Also Targets Advanced Manufacturers in the Region

Rochester NY--September 14, 2006-- The Finger Lakes Partnership today announced its first funding opportunity for businesses since the collaborative was awarded \$15 million February 1st as part of the U.S. Department of Labor WIRED Initiative. WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) is intended to help create high-skill and high-wage opportunities for workers in the Finger Lakes Region.

The Partnership will award a total of \$650,000 to companies in the following industry clusters to improve worker skills: optics and imaging, biotech and life sciences, food and agriculture, advanced manufacturers and alternative energy. Business services and healthcare organizations are also encouraged to apply for funds to train employees in process improvement initiatives such as Lean, ISO and Six Sigma.

Peter Robinson, Chair of the Finger Lakes Partnership Governing Board and also Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the University of Rochester Medical Center said, "We are very pleased to make this grant assistance available to help regional businesses maintain their competitive edge and grow. When businesses can invest in their people and improve worker skills they enhance workers' long-term employability, career growth and earnings potential. That in turn boosts our region's ability to meet the demands of emerging industries. We strongly encourage eligible companies to take advantage of this grant assistance."

The grant funds have been made available through the United States Department of Labor for businesses in the nine-county Finger Lakes Region (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates counties).

Organizations in qualified industries may request up to \$25,000 per application for training that can be completed in twelve months or less. Training should lead to the acquisition of industry-recognized certifications/credentials, productivity and process

improvement procedures, or in-demand skills. Applicants must provide matching funds equal to the amount of funds requested.

As a result of funding, businesses are expected to provide training to employees that will result in the acquisition of in-demand transferable skills and industry-recognized certification or credential.

How to Apply

For complete details on eligibility, a Scholarship Program Application and Training Budget visit the Finger Lakes Wired Web site at www.fingerlakeswired.com. Applications will be reviewed on a continuous basis and awards made through a contract process until funds are exhausted. Applications may be submitted electronically, faxed, or mailed to:

Claudia Gately, Finger Lakes Partnership
255 North Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14607
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The [Finger Lakes Partnership](#) was awarded \$15 million over three years as part of the United States Department of Labor WIRED Initiative. The Partnership is led by a strong team of business, investor, entrepreneurial, philanthropic, government, and academic leaders who share a vision to transform the Finger Lakes region into a premier place in which to innovate, one that invests in entrepreneurial operations and trains workers, empowering them to be agile, adaptable, and aligned with global opportunities.

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