

MVAEA

Harlan,

I would preface my comments by stating that Tom Haskell and I are retired and not abreast of all the latest laws, rules and prescriptions set forth by the feds and state governments. I think that WE must trust those still active in the field and working with the current population to guide us in developing those educational activities. Karen Ulanski of Kansas along with other board members helped design this proposal with Karen putting it in the present format. I think that she did a great job of detailing the key components of the new program and its intent.

Current funding levels by state departments of education and workforce development do not allow the colleges/postsecondary programs the luxury of extra funds that might allow them to conduct seminars/workshops. The MVAEA Board decided that by offering a seminar series in each state it might serve the purpose of recruiting new members to MVAEA while charging a small fee to help build the treasury of the organization.

The MVAEA Board created a document in the hopes of applying for funds to conduct seminars enlightening potential members of MVAEA about the changes in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is now called the Workforce Innovations & Opportunities Act (WIOA). It is the intent with this request that we could help underwrite the costs of bringing in some resource people in each of the three states of Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. These three states because they still are working to keep MVAEA alive while others have dropped their state organizations. The moneys will be coming available very soon so we need to move on this project.

The goal is that the current members might recruit new members by providing a forum where the board could bring in specialists in a panel format. Steve Allison (IA) has provided me with an example of what a panel format might look like. ["I would visualize the forum as an opportunity for elected local and state officials, along with college administration, IEDA, WIOA, GAP and PACE representatives from colleges, Dept. of Ed. and whomever else to come together and put a strategy or plan in place to coordinate the usage of the funds. WIOA is slanted more towards Economic Development and the potential to get more jobs in place. So, training the workforce will be a part. The roll out date is 7-1-15, and I think it will be a work in process for a while."](#)

Harlan, I believe that due to the organizational format of the three state organizations we (the board) believed that the \$2500 for each state would allow each to organize their own panels relative to each of their respective needs. Remember I stated that the dollars would be supplemented by a registration fee for the panel discussions thus the requested dollars would not carry the program.

You asked for a budget for this project but I think that is relevant to how each state wants to offer the forums. The goal for each is to leverage the funds to create membership plus provide information to adult & continuing educators.

In light of the current mood in Congress and the paucity of federal funding for adult education programs, helping states to utilize the funds that are available is crucial. Quick action is necessary for those in the field to request, obtain, and utilize the funds that do become available to provide opportunities for adults and their states' adult educators. These three proposed grants of \$2500 for Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, can provide the necessary edge to enable productive use of the federal funds. Almost all of

the workforce grants in the past have included significant amounts of ABE training for which our states are accustomed to providing either through the community colleges and to some extent through public school districts (Missouri in particular). The MVAEA Board fervently believes that the use of the grant to enable educators to take advantage of opportunities funded by the federal government for adult education -- and at the same time promote education in concert with community leaders -- affirms your intention to promote the field of adult education and MVAEA even when funding is lean. These grants would help provide a crucial gap in the promotion of educational opportunity as well as preparing adult educators for new challenges.

Tom Haskell reported that at the end of December the fund was at about \$40,000. Drawing interest was not your intent with the original deposit as I assume you want the money to work for the organization.