

## **WANTO Grant Opportunities Announced**

The Women's Bureau (WB) and the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship (OA) have announced the availability of \$972,180 under Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) to establish a grant program for the purpose of assisting employers and labor unions in the placement and retention of women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations.

The WB and OA anticipate awarding two-year grants totaling approximately \$300,000 each to up to three community-based organizations (CBO)/registered apprenticeship program (RAP) consortia, each consisting of a minimum of one each of: (1) A construction industry RAP sponsor, and (2) a CBO (which may be faith based) with demonstrated experience in securing job training services from established training institutions such as community colleges, and providing placement and support services to women in construction industry jobs.

The grants will be funded in increments of \$150,000 for each year. Funding for the second year will be contingent upon satisfactory progress toward grant requirements for placement of women in registered apprenticeship programs as outlined in the application.

Additional eligibility information, application requirements, and Federal evaluation criteria for this competition (SGA/DFA-PY-06-01) may be found in the February 13 FEDERAL REGISTER at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-2400.pdf>

**Applications are due by April 13, 2007.**

**Background:** The Women in Apprenticeships and Non-Traditional Occupations Act (WANTO) funding (\$982,000) was restored in the final 2006 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. Senators Specter (R-PA), Regula (R-OH), and Harkin (D-IA) with their staff, Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow (TNT), and WOW, serving as chair of the TNT Policy Committee were the primary actors in moving this effort forward. First enacted in 1992, the program has been responsible for awarding 60 technical assistance grants to employers, nonprofit community-based organizations and labor unions to help them recruit, train and retain women for non-traditional, high-wage/high-demand jobs. Annual appropriations of approximately \$1 million were made for WANTO until 2003. For FY 2004, funding of \$993,000 was appropriated for WANTO grants but, due to the small amount of funds involved, there was not a specific WANTO line item in the legislation. However, report language indicated Congress' intent that WANTO grants be funded at this level in FY 2004. Unfortunately, the USDOL Women's Bureau, which is responsible for administering WANTO grants, failed to initiate a grant process, and indicated on its website that it did not intend to fund WANTO activities.