



Wider Opportunities for Women

A WANTO Win!

We did it! The Women in Apprenticeships and Non-Traditional Occupations Act (WANTO) funding (\$982,000) has been restored in the final 2006 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. This is particularly remarkable given that the Labor-HHS bill was quite contentious this time around, with significant reductions in funds in a number of areas.

First enacted in 1992, the WANTO 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. These are the jobs that we know employers are looking to fill but for which there are not enough trained workers. 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.

The relevant report language for FY 2006 was developed with the intent of ensuring that the USDOL will allocate the funds that are appropriated:

- The full conference report's opening language specifies that the bill is to fund WIA *and* WANTO
- The full conference report specifies that **\$982,000 is for carrying out Public Law 102-530, the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act of 1992**
- For added emphasis, the Senate report states that the \$982K "is specified in bill language to prevent its being diverted to other purposes".

Senators Specter (R-PA), Regula (R-OH), and Harkin (D-IA) with their staff, Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow (TNT), and Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), serving as chair of the TNT Policy Committee were the primary actors in moving this effort forward.

From Final Conference Report

109TH CONGRESS " HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2006, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
DECEMBER 13, 2005.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. REGULA, from the committee on conference,
submitted the following
CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3010]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the
two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3010)
“making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal
year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes”, having
met, after further full and free conference, have agreed to recommend
and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment
of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as
follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment,
insert:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the
Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes,
namely:*

*TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)*

***For necessary expenses of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,
the Denali Commission Act of 1998, and the Women in Apprenticeship
and Non-Traditional Occupations Act of 1992...***

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

... The conference agreement provides \$2,000,000 for other National
Activities as proposed by the House, instead of \$3,458,000 as
proposed by the Senate. ***Of this amount, \$982,000 is for carrying
out Public Law 102-530, the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-
Traditional Occupations Act of 1992...***

From Senate Report

Technical Assistance- The Committee recommends \$3,458,000 for the provision of technical assistance and
staff development, an increase of \$1,458,000 over the budget request and House allowance, but the same as
the program year 2005 level. ***This includes \$982,000 for technical assistance to employers and unions
to assist them in training, placing, and retraining women in nontraditional jobs and occupations, as
authorized under the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act of 1992,***

Public Law 102-530; this amount is specified in bill language, to prevent its being diverted to other purposes. ...