

State Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education USVI

Narrative for Perkins IV

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Introduction:

This narrative is being submitted for the Perkins IV FFY 2007-2008 which closed out in December 2009. We are currently expending 2008-2009 funding, and all funds have been obligated. This year, we anticipate that we will also be able to obligate and liquidate FFY 2009-2010 funding on time as well, as the Department recently received the funds. The challenges posed for the State Office varies. The Virgin Islands is unique in that we have 1 territory with 2 separate LEA's, one in each District.

Required use of Funds:

Conducting an assessment of the vocational and technical education programs funded under Perkins IV:

A: No assessment was conducted of vocational and technical education programs funded under Perkins IV for FFY 07-08 in the year that the funds were obligated and liquidated (2008-2009), but the State Office conducted an assessment of the program in the actual FY 07-08. Identified needs and strategies for improvement of CTE programs territorially are addressed in the 6 year Career and Technical Education State Plan covers FY 2008 through FY 2013.

Developing, improving, or expanding the use of technology in Career and Technical Education:

A: The State Office allocated funds to the District for CTE teachers and counselors to purchase promethean boards and computers for CTE student data compilation, as well as provided for the purchase of additional computers for the counselors to complete Career inventory Assessments for CTE students.

Offering professional development programs, including providing comprehensive professional development (including initial teacher preparation) for career and technical education teachers, faculty, administrators, and career guidance and academic counselors at the secondary and post secondary levels.

A: The State participated in training that was conducted by each District for local plans and CTE teachers. Additionally, we conducted training for CTE faculty and staff in conjunction with the University of the Virgin Islands.

Providing support for career and technical education programs that improve the academic and career and technical skills of students through the integration of academics with career and technical education

A: The state offers Technical Assistance (TA) for every CTE program in each District. The TA is used to assist and support the LEA's and Adult CTE program with a variety of topics ranging from allowable costs, to finding a correlation and developing a process to merge traditional/classical education and CTE.

Providing preparation for non-traditional fields in current and emerging professions, and other activities that expose students, including special populations, to high skill, high wage occupations, except that one-day or short-term workshops or conferences are not allowable:

A: The state offers this through continuous TA from the State Office, as well as provided a copy of the CTE State Plan to every school so that they would be aware of the VI Department of Education's vision for CTE. The state also is in the process of developing and implementing standardized CTE curriculums for both LEA's.

Supporting partnerships among local education al agencies, institutions of higher education, adult education providers, and, as appropriate, other entities, such as employers, labor organizations, intermediaries, parents, and local partnerships, to enable students to achieve state academic standards, and career and technical skills, or complete career and technical programs of study;

A: The state conducted training in conjunction with the Vocational Ed Board and the Workforce Investment Board for CTE professionals under both LEA's. The State also has identified several key partnerships with local businesses to offer innovative and interesting programs to students that will enable them to achieve academic standards, career and technical skill, or complete career and technical education programs of study. One such partnership is with a local business, HOVENSA, to offer an industry craft maintenance program, designed to train secondary students to enter into an Associate of Arts program at Texas Tech, which leads to employment opportunity for each student at HOVENSA. The program teaches mil rite, pipe fitting instrumentation and electricity. The state encourages our LEA's and Adult CTE programs to partner with local industries to strengthen and validate the learning, as well as foster relations that can lead to jobs for program graduates who elect to follow those career pathways. There are partnerships in place currently with the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital, Hotel and Tourism, the University of the Virgin Islands, Department of Labor and several local business.

Serving individuals in state institutions

A: There is no reporting under this section at this time.

Providing support for programs for special populations that lead to high skill, high wage and high demand occupations

A: The Virgin Islands Department's of Education mandates inclusion of all student populations regardless of race, religion, origin, disability, in their educational programs. We have staff who deal specifically with meeting the individual needs of special population students for inclusion in CTE programs. The State feels that inclusion for special population students in CTE programs contributes to a vital part of their future success in the workforce.

Offering technical assistance for eligible recipients.

A: Technical Assistance is constant. The State provides TA to its CTE programs in both Districts, as this contributes to the development and success of the programs. For 07-08 FY, LEA's had ongoing TA, as well as the flexibility to request TA at their convenience once a need was identified.