



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

Press Release

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BOLI opens competition for \$1 million in supportive services contracts

BOLI-ODOT partnership to fund programs for training, retention of construction workers

PORTLAND – Oregon’s Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) today issued a statewide Request for Proposals (RFP) to parties interested in seeking a portion of the \$1 million now available to fund supportive services programs that increase diversity in the highway construction workforce. The contracts, funded with an allocation of federal highway dollars via BOLI’s partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), will be administered by the state Apprenticeship and Training Division (ATD), a part of BOLI.

“ATD and ODOT have done great foundational work for this project,” said State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, head of BOLI. “This partnership and the services we will be able to fund in the community send a clear message that Oregon values its workers, including the women and people of color who are not traditionally directed toward the construction career pathways that can lead to high-skill, living-wage jobs.”

ATD plays a key role in workforce development throughout the state, working with local training committees and their community partners to ensure a high-quality, competitive workforce for Oregon in 119 skilled occupations. The supportive services project will increase diversity in the highway construction workforce by enhancing existing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and offering support and retention services to help address the high dropout rate of women and minorities in apprenticeship programs.

“To maximize the impact of this funding, we will favor proposals that build on existing efforts,” Commissioner Avakian said. “However, BOLI is committed to workforce development throughout Oregon and is budgeting for a minimum of \$100,000 in contracts to each of five state regions, with no more than \$400,000 going to any one region.”

ODOT divides Oregon highways into [five geographic regions](#): Portland/METRO, Willamette Valley/Coast, Southwestern Oregon, Central Oregon and Eastern Oregon.

To view the RFP and its submission requirements, interested parties must register as a “supplier” on the state’s procurement web page, the Oregon Procurement Information Network, at [ORPIN.Oregon.gov](#). All proposals must be submitted by 3:00pm, Pacific Time, on December 30, 2010. Proposals should anticipate an early January start date, as ATD staff will evaluate and issue decisions after no more than 30 days. Questions should be directed, in a written format, to:

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