

**DECISION****December 7, 2021****MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY****FROM:** DOUGLAS L. PARKER  
Assistant Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug L. Parker".

**SUBJECT:** Request for Approval of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* Susan Harwood Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, Including COVID-19 Grants**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) seeks approval of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* Susan Harwood Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, Including COVID-19 grants. Documents attached for your review and approval include the draft *Federal Register* Notice (FRN), News Release, talking points, and the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program awards funds to qualifying non-profit organizations who have demonstrated capabilities to achieve the program performance expectations outlined in the FOA. This includes experience in employing subject matter experts, delivering and administering adult training programs, recruiting trainees, and managing grants. Following the grant awards, OSHA monitors each organization's progress in achieving their performance goals and training targets. OSHA accomplishes this by conducting orientation meetings, training material reviews, training observations, program and financial monitoring visits, and quarterly and year-end report reviews.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program provides funding for nonprofit organizations to develop and conduct training for small business employers and workers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of occupational safety and health hazards in their workplaces.

In Public Law 117-2, *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)*, Congress authorized \$10,000,000 for the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program to provide training grants

on infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This funding is separate from the Susan Harwood Training Grants funded through OSHA's annual appropriation. In September 2021, OSHA awarded \$6,742,290 to organizations to conduct training on infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This funding opportunity will make available the remainder of ARPA funds totaling \$3,257,710 for additional grants.

In the spring of FY 2022, the annually appropriated Susan Harwood Training Grants for Targeted Topic Training, Training and Educational Materials Development, and Capacity Building grant opportunities will be announced through separate FOAs.

OSHA is releasing this ARPA Susan Harwood FOA directed toward nonprofit organizations specifically to deliver safety and health training to at-risk workers by covering hazards, prevention, and control of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. The period of performance for these grants is 12 months, beginning immediately upon award. The maximum award for the competitive grants is \$160,000.

Upon approval, OSHA will forward a news release to the Office of Public Affairs. The attached FRN will be published, and current grantees and other stakeholders, including faith-based, community, and other organizations serving vulnerable workers, will receive notification about this funding opportunity.

### **OTHER DOL AGENCIES INVOLVED**

The Office of the Solicitor concurred prior to the ExecSec clearance process.

### **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES INVOLVED**

N/A.

### **CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST**

House Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senate Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) are strong supporters of the Harwood Program.

Public Law 117-2, *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, directs OSHA to provide \$10,000,000 for training on infectious diseases, including COVID-19 through the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program.

### **DUE DATE FOR APPROVAL**

Thursday, January 20, 2022.

OSHA would like to provide the public 60 days to respond to the FOA. Receiving an approval on January 20, 2022, will allow that to happen.

## **EXPEDITED APPROVAL REQUEST**

N/A.

## **CONTACT**

Robert Murphy, Director, Office of Training and Education, (847) 759-7729, Murphy.Robert.G@dol.gov.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- *2022 SH ARPA COVID-19 Federal Register Notice*
- *2022 Funding Opportunity Announcement for Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, Including COVID-19*
- *2022 SH ARPA COVID-19 Talking Points*
- *2022 SH ARPA COVID-19 News Release*

## DECISION

**SUBJECT:** Request for Approval of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* Susan Harwood Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, Including COVID-19 Grants

**RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION:** OSHA recommends approval of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* Susan Harwood Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, Including COVID-19 Grants *Federal Register* Notice, funding opportunity announcements, news release, and talking points.

Approved: 

Date: January 12, 2022

Let's Discuss: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**