



FMCS
FEDERAL MEDIATION &
CONCILIATION SERVICE

NEWS RELEASE

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Deadline Approaching for FMCS Labor-Management Grants Applications Due May 31, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC – The deadline to apply for a labor-management grant from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) is now less than a month away; and time is growing short to earn grant funding for projects such as improving workers' skills, addressing workplace health and safety issues, or jointly resolving labor-management issues.

FMCS grants totaling approximately \$500,000 will be awarded in FY 2018 to promote best practices in labor-management cooperation as a way of improving collective bargaining and proactively mitigating labor-management disputes. The grant program supports the establishment and operation of joint labor-management committees at the company level, on a community or area-wide basis, within a particular industry, and for public sector employees.

FMCS grants are intended to support and promote labor-management cooperation as well as joint, innovative solutions to disruptive workplace issues.

As has been the case in previous years, FMCS is encouraging applications to address the shortage of skilled workers for U.S. manufacturing jobs and in other vital economic sectors. Also of special interest are grant applications that look ahead to training for high-tech jobs that will emerge from an economy where new technologies such as artificial intelligence, self-driving vehicles, and Internet-based transactions are commonplace. John Pinto, FMCS Deputy Director, Field Operations, said, "It is imperative that management and labor begin preparing for the new jobs and workplaces that new technologies will create in the near future."

FMCS Deputy Director Scot Beckenbaugh added, "We want to encourage labor organizations and employers to think about the jobs of tomorrow and to explore options with the FMCS grants program for developing joint training programs that can teach the skills needed to fill these jobs."

Application information and instructions for completing the process can be obtained online at the Agency's Web site—www.fmcs.gov. Detailed information and application training

videos are available at <https://www.fmcs.gov/resources/forms-applications/labor-management-grants-program/>. Interested parties are urged to contact the FMCS Grants Office at (202) 606-8181 with any questions they might have.

The grants program, which began in 1981 under the authority of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 (PL 95-524), has funded a broad range of projects including outreach, communications, strategic planning, minority recruitment and process development.

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The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 regional offices and more than 60 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.