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Entry Level Driver Training Program

GRANTEES

21st Century Coop - Cumberland

Award: \$11,000 10 participants

21st Century Coop will offer third-party training to certify 8 drivers who are currently employed by 21st Century Coop and hire and train 2 new employees in the next year. Business relies heavily on transportation of ag products and is dependent on employees who have a valid CDL license. Seven locations in Southwest Iowa including 5 grain coops, 2 feed production facilities, 1 chemical mixing plant, 2 fertilizer plants, 3 storage facilities for propane, a gas station, and a convenience store will benefit from the program.

AGRILAND FS INC. – Winterset

Award: \$327,144 137 participants

AGRILAND FS Inc. will provide in-house ELDT A/HM training to new and existing employees to better prepare new and/or existing employees in the fields of Agronomy, Energy, Feed, Grain, Structures, and Turf. Grant funds will help alleviate the barriers of the time it takes to obtain a CDL, the financial costs associated with obtaining a CDL, and a shortage of qualified drivers.

Alliant Energy IPL – Cedar Rapids

Award: \$20,875 20 participants

Alliant Energy will provide CDL training for new apprentice or journey level employees needing their Class A CDL with airbrakes endorsement through a third-party training provider, Northland CDL of Mason City. The program goal is to attract workers that need a CDL to work in the utilities not otherwise considered in recruitment due to cost/time/sources of CDL training.

Bettendorf Community School District – Bettendorf

Award: \$10,000 10 participants

Bettendorf CSD will provide in-house training for up to 10 new CDL drivers to fill current bus driver openings or anticipated retirements at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year. With the additional funding from this grant, Bettendorf CSD will continue their robust training system developed in the past year which resulted in 3 employees receiving their Class B CDL with school bus endorsement.

Captain Clean Ltd. – Cedar Rapids

Award: \$25,000 10 participants

Captain Clean is a small business that will partner with a third-party trainer, ELDT Solutions based in Hiawatha, Iowa, to assist existing employees in obtaining their CDL. Grant funds will also help attract new employees by offering CDL driver training. Captain Clean is an industrial cleaning contractor serving many industrial sites in eastern Iowa since 1969.

Cedar Rapids Community School District – Cedar Rapids

Award: \$98,990 49 participants

Cedar Rapids Community Schools’ Entry Level Driver Training program consists of theory, range, and behind the wheel training that certifies and prepares new employees to drive a school bus safely. Program consists of hiring and providing in-house training to approximately 49 new school bus drivers to assist in safe transportation of K-12 age students within the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program will assist in removing educational barriers for students in the Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities by providing more access to reliable and safe transportation.

Cemstone Companies – Mendota Heights

Award: \$60,000 20 participants

Family owned Cemstone Companies will offer a CDL training program for employees to obtain a CDL license via ELDT standards. Cemstone Companies operate a fleet of specialized CDL required vehicles and finding qualified CDL drivers has proven to be very challenging. Employees will be paid by the hour to get their CDL through the in-house program.

City of Coralville – Coralville

Award: \$8,000 10 participants

The City of Coralville will offer an ELDT training course through a third-party training provider for the public works and transit departments. The ELDT training program will provide for safer and more skilled drivers in all jobs requiring a CDL including streets workers, solid waste/recycling workers and bus drivers.

City of Des Moines – Des Moines

Award: \$85,000 30 participants

The City of Des Moines’ CDL training program provides opportunities for existing employees for job advancement in permanent positions as well as assists new employees whose jobs require a CDL. The City of Des Moines’ in-house formal training program allows employees behind the wheel driver instruction to obtain a CDL for the following positions – cemetery equipment operator, heavy equipment operator, light equipment operator, medium equipment operator, street maintenance worker, plant field worker, refuse collector, sewer cleaning equipment operator, sewer maintenance worker, street cleaning equipment operator, arborist, truck driver, fleet mechanic, park maintenance worker, and solid waste section chief.

City of Dubuque – Dubuque

Award: \$85,000 30 participants

The Jule, the City of Dubuque’s public transit, must be fully staffed with bus operators who hold a Class B CDL with passenger and air brake endorsements to provide and maintain service for The Jule’s fixed route and paratransit passengers who are public transit dependent. Grant funding provides in-house training covering “Behind the Wheel” and classroom Theory training under The Jule Certified Driver Trainer program. The program provides CDL training for all City departments with employees who need CLD training. The grant will allow potential employees who do not currently carry a CDL to apply for a City position that requires a CDL.

Davis County Community School District – Bloomfield

Award: \$72,500 25 participants

Davis County School's existing in-house Entry Level Driver Training program goal is to train and qualify prospective drivers for Davis County Community Schools as well as provide the opportunity for other Iowa school districts to send driver-trainees for training. This will provide a pool of qualified people who not only fulfill Davis County School's need but also meet the region's transportation training needs. The program will include theory and behind the wheel training for bus drivers and emergency transportation to support the ADLM regional emergency management services as part of their emergency operations planning efforts.

Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority – Des Moines

Award: \$63,751 40 participants

DART will utilize grant funds to assist with in-house training provided to driver candidates who do not start employment with their CDL Class B with passenger endorsement to operate light, medium, and heavy-duty passenger buses. The program goal is to reduce barriers to the agency and the employees and to achieve the necessary and required training and certification. DART employees will gain skills to have successful, long-term employment and DART will continue to provide necessary services.

Dubuque Community School District – Dubuque

Award: \$51,621 60 participants

Dubuque Community Schools will target to recruit and train school bus drivers in-house to fully staff transportation services and reduce costs to transport public and parochial school children. The program will relieve driver shortages which have caused services to be cut, preventive maintenance of equipment to be put off, and increased risk to students due to shortages in emergency response teams. In addition to providing training for our staff, we will offer training for neighboring small school districts who can't train or afford to train their own staff.

Duwa's Quality Walls Inc. – Riverside

Award: \$8,520 6 participants

Duwa's Quality Walls is a small concrete foundations company with the goal of obtaining 6 Class A CDL with air brake endorsement for qualified employees. Program will partner with Northland CDL (Mason City) to provide third-party training.

Eldon C. Stutsman, Inc. – Hills

Award: \$40,000 12 participants

Eldon C. Stutsman will offer an innovative in-house training curriculum with a qualified in-house trainer to reduce barriers for truck drivers interested in obtaining a CDL license. The program will provide more opportunities for truck drivers to obtain their CDL by recruiting and training drivers and offering the right training when and where employees need it.

Erpelding Excavating Enterprise Corp. – Algona

Award: \$5,370 6 participants

Erpelding Excavating is a small dirt contractor who will utilize third-party training providers to provide ELDT for employees driving semi tractors with trailers and straight trucks with tag trailers. Third-party training providers include Northland Distributing Group and North Iowa Area Community College to provide theory training, behind the wheel training, and driving exam.

GROWMARK, Inc – Shell Rock

Award: \$63,550 74 participants

The three retail divisions of GROWMARK, Inc. doing business in the northern half of the state serving farmers and rural communities will expand employee recruiting and retention efforts by offering payment of driving school tuition to potential candidates. Program will partner with several third-party training providers across the state following curriculum standards set forth by the FMCSA.

HEARTLAND CO-OP – West Des Moines

Award: \$179,000 200 participants

Heartland Co-op provides critical infrastructure services to over 6,000+ farmer members, most residing in Iowa. ELDT program will seek to upgrade 120 employees to acquire a Class A CDL over the course of the next 18 months. Program will partner with Northland CDL Training to provide new drivers with classroom education and formal, hands-on training.

Hirschbach Motor Lines – Dubuque

Award: \$400,000 200 participants

The Hirschbach in-house CDL training program strives to provide candidates with the opportunity to obtain their CDL through a robust training program that includes classroom, instructor, and on the road training. Hirschbach provides all aspects of successful CDL training and has created Certified Commercial Examiners that are able to conduct CDL Class A skills evaluations and alleviate the burden from the Iowa DOT examiners. The current graduation rate is in excess of 80% and candidates are immediately awarded full-time driving roles upon graduation. Hirschbach is primarily a refrigerated carrier, hauling essential goods across the United States.

Indianola Community School District – Indianola

Award: \$10,700 6 participants

Indianola Community Schools will train new drivers in-house for qualified applicants looking to train for school bus driving. Instructors have 18+ years in the school bus industry with both being CDL carriers.

Jensen Transport – Independence

Award: \$40,000 12 participants

Jensen Transport will provide in-house theory training utilizing the JJ Keller ELDT materials to track the progress of participants. Pre-trip training is provided by a certified diesel mechanic and skills and driving are taught by drivers with a minimum of 10 years driving experience.

Jochum Agri-Service, Inc – Salix

Award: \$12,500 5 participants

Jochum Agri-Service will provide training to certify their 5 current employees that do not currently hold a CDL through third-party training provider, Carroll CDL Training. Jochum Agri-Service is a small agriculture business that performs work for large dairy and hog confinements over six counties and this training will allow for tasks to be more evenly distributed amongst their team.

Key Cooperative – Sully

Award: \$8,160 16 participants

Key Cooperative will support Entry-Level Driver Training for new hires through a third-party training provider, CDL Now. Key Cooperative is a retail agriculture business that has supported employees in getting CDL licensing for more than 20 years. Key Cooperative's purpose is to be a key partner for producers in Central Iowa in grain, agronomy, feed, and energy.

Kluesner Construction, Inc. – Farley

Award: \$9,600 6 participants

Kluesner Construction will provide training to certify an estimated 6 participants through Goldline CDL Training LLC, a Third-Party training provider. Kluesner Construction will utilize this award to recruit new CDL drivers to their asphalt paving operation that will help create better roads, parking lots, and driveways throughout Eastern Iowa.

Knife River Midwest, LLC – Sioux City

Award: \$60,000 20 participants

Knife River Midwest will provide In-House Entry-Level Driver Training for an estimated 20 participants. Knife River Midwest specializes in asphalt paving, operating within a 150 miles radius of Sioux City, Iowa. The Knife River Midwest ELDT program includes textbooks, videos, and hands-on training with one-on-one assistance available to ensure that trainees can complete the program.

Lime Rock Springs Pepsi Cola – Dubuque

Award: \$20,000 8 participants

Lime Rock Springs Pepsi Cola will support 8 participants through partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College. Lime Rock Springs has been in business for 107 years serving Dubuque, Clayton, and Jackson counties. This program will help them become fully staffed and lead to a more balanced quality of life for their entire team.

Linn Cooperative Oil Company – Marion

Award: \$40,000 16 participants

Linn Cooperative Oil Company will certify 16 participants with third-party training provider, ELDT Solutions. Linn Coop is a member owned coop that provides and delivers Fuel, LP, and Agronomy products with five locations. The goal of the program is to develop current staff as well as broaden the base of candidates they can employ.

Mainline Construction, Inc – Bondurant

Award: \$7,500 3 participants

Mainline Construction is a small employer that will partner with a third-party training provider. The majority of projects Mainline Construction completes are excavation projects that require materials on very short notice. They have previously relied on third parties to transport these materials, but with this award, will plan to take these costs and responsibilities within their company to increase efficiency.

Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric Cooperative – Anamosa

Award: \$5,000 2 participants

Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric Cooperative plans to support the training of two fiber linemen by Third-Party provider, ELDT Solutions to gain their Class A CDL. In 2016, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative began the installation of a fiber optic network in their service area to provide high-speed internet to their members. They have created their own fiber line crew and need CDL Drivers to operate the vehicles used by this crew.

Metro Pavers, Inc. – Iowa City

Award: \$41,280 20 participants

Metro Pavers will pay for the tuition of 20 new employees to obtain their Class B CDL in partnership with Kirkwood Community College. They will recruit individuals that have no CDL, use award funds to pay 100% of the CDL class B tuition, provide a training wage while students are in the training, and provide on the job training to give non-experienced drivers the experience to safely operate a commercial vehicle.

MidAmerican Energy Company – Des Moines

Award: \$315,000 122 participants

MidAmerican Energy Company is proposing to provide ELDT initially via FMCSA certified third-party provider and transition to include FMCSA certified in-house training. Their goal is to train approximately 122 drivers over 20 months so they can obtain a Class A CDL to safely provide essential services to the state of Iowa.

NEW Cooperative, Inc. – Algona

Award: \$26,483 44 participants

NEW Cooperative will develop and implement an in-house Entry Level Driver Training program to help employees earn their Commercial Driver's License. The goal of the program is to recruit and retain new employees and reduce wait time that employees experience in the process of earning their CDLs caused by a lack of certified providers that facilitate theory training for a Hazardous Materials endorsement.

North Polk Community School District – Alleman

Award: \$30,000 12 participants

North Polk Community Schools will partner with Marshalltown Community College and Iowa Central College to provide Entry-Level Driver Training to 12 new route drivers for their school district. Their program goal is to provide proper training to the drivers to ensure safe and efficient transportation that meets the needs of the district that continues to grow in enrollment.

Norwalk Community School District – Norwalk

Award: \$12,500 5 participants

Norwalk Community Schools will certify five new drivers through a third-party training provider, Northland CDL Training. Norwalk Community Schools experienced a shortage of bus drivers following the pandemic as veteran drivers opted not to return for employment and this program will eliminate the barrier associated with the cost of ELDT.

Polk County Conservation – Granger

Award: \$18,584 20 participants

Polk County Conservation will support the training of approximately 20 participants with Northland CDL in Mason City. These employees are critical to Polk County Conservation's core operations as well as the implementation of various environmental and recreational programming initiatives.

Pottawattamie County Engineering – Council Bluffs

Award: \$35,000 10 participants

Pottawattamie County Engineering will create an in-house ELDT Program to provide valuable training to a total of 10 current employees and new hires. Having their own program will provide a greater opportunity for hiring, retention, and safety. The in-house program will provide consistency and a familiar learning environment for employees. Their anticipated outcome is to have a sustainable training program, to not only develop, but also preserve skilled, confident, and proud CDL drivers in Iowa.

Rasmussen Group – Des Moines

Award: \$125,000 50 participants

Rasmussen Group will provide a combination of in-house and third-party training for 50 participants to gain their CDL. The Rasmussen Group is the management organization for nine individual companies that serve the construction industry. The goal of their program is to assist their business in hiring and retaining safe, qualified drivers that will assist their community in completing infrastructure projects.

River Valley Cooperative – Eldridge

Award: \$125,000 50 participants

River Valley Cooperative will partner with ELDT Solutions to provide Entry Level Driver Training to 50 participants. River Valley has encountered increased difficulty in hiring CDL drivers to support the requirements of their agricultural organization that is reliant on its drivers that haul grain, fertilizers, manufactured livestock feed, propane, and diesel fuel to the farmers and home heat customers across eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

Schrader Excavating & Grading Co. – Walford

Award: \$64,000 40 participants

Schrader Excavating and Grading expects to train 40 current employees and new hires to receive their Class A CDL working with Goldline CDL as a third-party training provider. Schrader handles a wide variety of commercial and residential projects that require driving and moving heavy equipment and helps hauling for other area businesses.

Solon Community School District – Solon

Award: \$89,500 34 participants

Solon Community School District plans to address a shortage of drivers with plans to train 34 new drivers with a third-party training partner while developing their own in-house training program that will allow them to be more flexible with training schedules to accommodate more individuals.

STA of Iowa – Johnston

Award: \$29,360 25 participants

STA of Iowa has a goal of certifying 25 CDL drivers to support school bus operations for the Johnston Community School District and the 5 Iowa communities whose students and families are served by the JCSD with an established In-House Training program.

Stockton Towing Inc. – Sioux City

Award: \$15,000 6 participants

Stockton Towing Inc. will train 6 current and new employees to certify for Class A or Class B CDL's, utilizing Western Iowa Tech Community College as a third-party training provider. Stockton Towing covers a large response area of Northwest Iowa and the tri-state region with a 24/7 dispatch center and a heavy haul division that transports oversized loads of construction equipment and farm implements in Iowa and surrounding states.

The University of Iowa CAMBUS – Iowa City

Award: \$109,825 120 participants

The University of Iowa CAMBUS program will use their in-house training program to provide Entry Level Driver Training to 120 new transit operator hires to obtain a Class B CDL. This training will allow the organization to continue to hire drivers and maintain a driver staff level needed to operate the public transit services needed by the staff and students at the University of Iowa.

Three Rivers FS Company – Dyersville

Award: \$24,000 15 participants

Three Rivers FS will develop a training program to help with the expenses for new and seasonal employees needing a CDL to perform their job. Grant funds will be used for tuition costs for a third-party training provider, Goldline CDL LLC in Manchester. Three Rivers FS is a valued crop nutrient, propane, and refined fuel supplier in northeast Iowa.

West Rock Construction Operations, Inc. – Rock Valley

Award: \$7,500 5 participants

West Rock Construction Operations is a small construction business in northwest Iowa. Grant funds will be used to help alleviate some of the burden across the state for CDL drivers and provide an affordable way for all employees to gain a skill that can be difficult to afford, thus improving their jobs and lives. West Rock Construction will be partnering with Northwest Iowa Community College to provide CDL training to an estimated 5 participants.

West Union Trenching Inc. – West Union

Award: \$42,772 21 participants

West Union Trenching will be utilizing a combination of in-house and third-party training that will allow entry level employees to be promoted to skilled level positions including hauling equipment and materials to jobsites. The program will utilize West Union Trenching's equipment and current knowledge base to train the basic knowledge and skills and then have a certified, third-party provider supplement that training and test for ELDT and DOT CDL. West Union Trenching plans to partner with Northland CDL Training out of Mason City.

Total Amount Awarded: \$2,939,585
Number of Projects: 46
Number of Participants Served: 1,642*

*based on applicant estimates