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Deadline Approaching for Workforce AI Adoption Competitive Funding

PIERRE, SD – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) reminds businesses that the application deadline for the Workforce AI Adoption competitive funding is Friday, Aug. 7.

Employers interested in leveraging artificial intelligence to strengthen productivity, streamline operations, or enhance worker skills should submit their applications soon to be considered.

This is funding for training and is not intended to replace workforce with AI. Awards are available in the following categories:

1. Artificial Intelligence Business Discovery: Businesses can explore how AI may improve their operations with expert guidance to identify high-impact opportunities. DLR provides a one-to-one cost share of up to \$5,000.
2. Artificial Intelligence Training Implementation: Employers can receive support for training on the implementation of AI tools. DLR provides a one-to-one cost share of up to \$20,000.
3. Artificial Intelligence Awareness: Employers may offer their teams basic AI awareness training to build foundational knowledge and readiness. DLR provides \$1,000 per employee for their time, not to exceed \$10,000 total.

Businesses can review eligibility criteria, funding details, and required documentation by visiting the [initiative's webpage](#). Employers are encouraged to apply early to ensure adequate time for review, preparation of supporting materials, and completion before the deadline.

This initiative is made possible through a partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, which has committed \$250,000 in Future Funds for business AI adoption, the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the South Dakota Workforce Development Council. In addition, DLR has designated \$150,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Labor specifically for applications that meet the criteria for incumbent worker training.