



Archived Content

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Exemplar Pilot Program

Training Announcement for Private Sector Entities

Training Area: Cybersecurity

Description:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the Exemplar Pilot Program seeks to detail one or more DHS employees from its Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) to a for-profit private sector company for training purposes. DHS employees will receive technical knowledge of a company's approach to developing and executing its cybersecurity programs. This effort supports the Secretary's priority to develop the next generation of cyber professionals to protect against evolving cyber threats.

Eligibility Requirements:

Private sector entities interested in serving as an Exemplar training host must:

- Be a U.S. based for-profit company.
- Be in good standing with the Federal government.
- Submit a letter of interest with details on the type of training that will be offered to the DHS employee (s) based on the desired learning objectives below. Successful companies will be evaluated on training offerings, structure, and location.
- Undergo and successfully complete a background investigation for suitability to participate in Exemplar.

Length:

The position is a six-month assignment with the option for a six-month renewal. During this time, the DHS employee (s) will embed with a private sector entity for training purposes.

Training Schedule:

The DHS employee (s) will train via temporary detail, as defined in Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 41, "Government Employees Training Act of 1958." The training schedule is full-time, with the option of part-time or intermittent.

Location:

Continental United States; National Capital Region Preferred

Cybersecurity Desired Learning Objectives Summary (Management or Operational):

A. Management Objectives

1. Understand the company's best practices and operational strategy for protecting their critical networks.
2. Understand the company's strategy to incorporate emerging and future technologies and to ensure continuous improvement to cyberspace solutions (e.g. current issues, lessons learned, and impact of future initiatives).
3. Familiarize DHS employee(s) with a variety of leadership styles and challenges in the company through direct exposure with senior leaders and other levels of leadership.
4. Familiarize DHS employee(s) with the company's system development lifecycle from planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, including an evaluation of how security is ensured throughout the lifecycle.

B. Operational Objectives

1. Understand how the company responds to contingencies, including how the company recovers from catastrophic failures (e.g. continuity of operations, primary/secondary network centers, redundancy operations, etc.).
2. Understand the company's information technology security architecture, including how the company manages intrusion detection and prevention, firewalls, penetration tests and security operations and information security programs.
3. Familiarize DHS employee(s) with the company's information risk management, with an emphasis on how the company's risk management program handles vulnerabilities and risks in its information systems.
4. Familiarize participants with how information technology portfolios are constructed and integrated, and how the company project assessment process is used to determine project initiation, continuation, or termination.

Additional Information

DHS GS-11 and above employees:

- Remain in their official position of record at DHS while on detail to private sector entities.
- Will continue to receive their current DHS salary and benefits while on detail to the private sector entity.
- Are required to return to DHS and serve three times the length of the Exemplar detail.
- Must receive approval for DHS-sponsored and non DHS-sponsored travel from supervisor prior to traveling.
- May be asked to sign a limited Non-Disclosure Agreement by the private sector entity.

Prohibition Against Charging Certain Costs to the Federal Government

A private sector organization may not charge DHS or any other agency of the Federal Government indirect or direct costs incurred while participating in Exemplar. The private sector entity will not be compensated for providing this training opportunity.

Please visit www.dhs.gov/exemplar for more information on Exemplar.

Submission Requirements and How to Apply:

To submit an application to serve as an Exemplar Pilot Program training host, please e-mail:

- Company background information;
- Detailed training offerings based on desired learning objectives (no more than three paragraphs), to include anticipated engagements and travel;
- Dun & Bradstreet number; and
- Contact information with “**Exemplar-Cybersecurity**” in the subject line to exemplar@hq.dhs.gov.

Submission Deadline:

Open until filled.

Whom to Contact for Additional Information:

Karinda L. Washington at Karinda.Washington@hq.dhs.gov

Authorities:

Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 41, “Government Employees Training Act of 1958”
DHS Exemplar Directive, 258-04, dated 03/08/2016
DHS Exemplar Implementation Plan, June 2016