



DOL ANNOUNCES GREEN JOBS GRANTS – \$50 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR STATE LABOR MARKET INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (The Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act designates \$500 million for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171(e)(1)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The purpose of these grants, which fund both green job training and research projects, is to teach workers the skills required in these emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. These efforts will lead program participants to job placement while leveraging other Recovery Act investments intended to create jobs and promote economic growth.

On Wednesday, June 24, 2009 the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOL ETA) published a Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications for **State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants**. A summary of the SGA for State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants follows.

Background and Strategic Vision

- The DOL ETA will promote economic recovery by supporting the training needs of workers and employers in high growth and emerging industries and assist individuals impacted by the recession by providing training and placement into employment, including the transition of auto and auto-related workers to jobs in the green energy sector.
- Grants offer an opportunity to demonstrate how partnerships between the public workforce system and other public and private systems, including labor-management partnerships, education institutions, community and faith-based organizations and research institutions can meet the workforce needs of the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.
- Successful organizations and partnerships will ensure that supportive services are integrated with education and training programs so that individuals can have access to a comprehensive array of supportive options. These organizations and partnerships will assist individuals in entering career pathways leading to economic self-sufficiency.
- Efforts will lead program participants to job placement while leveraging other Recovery Act investments intended to create jobs and promote economic growth.

State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants

- **Purpose:** Funds are available to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor market information, and to enhance the labor exchange infrastructure for careers within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Applicants must propose strategies and approaches in the following focus areas: data collection and estimation activities related to green industries, occupations, and skill requirements; data dissemination activities; and related research activities. Applicants will include strategies for posting job openings to online job banks that will be highlighted for easy recognition as green jobs by job seekers. Grantees should focus on ensuring that workers trained for green jobs will be able to find employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors after they finish training.

- **Funding Available:** The State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants contains approximately \$50 million in grant funds authorized by the Recovery Act.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants are the Workforce Agencies of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories, or a consortium of such agencies. States are expected to use workforce and labor market information and data as the foundation on which to build and implement effective workforce development strategies. The SGA encourages collaborative approaches, whereby multiple States apply as a consortium to conduct research that may potentially have a multi-State or national impact.
- **Grant Amounts:** ETA intends to fund individual State grants ranging from approximately \$750,000 to \$1,250,000. Individual grant awards to consortium applicants will range from \$2 to \$4 million, contingent upon adequate justifications and availability of resources.
- **Deadline:** The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is August 14, 2009. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. (Eastern Time).
- **Green Industries and Occupations:** Grantees will implement research and training programs that will help prepare individuals for careers in any of the seven energy efficiency and renewable energy industries defined in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the WIA, which include: the energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofit industries; the renewable electric power industry; the energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; the biofuels industry; the deconstruction and materials use industries; the energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials.

Additionally, DOL ETA is interested in applicants contributing to our understanding of green industries and jobs that clean and enhance our environment. Applicants may propose strategies that focus on training or labor market information and exchange related to those occupations from among the following industries: transportation; green construction; environmental protection; sustainable agriculture including healthy food production; forestry; and recycling and waste reduction.

Section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 595, defines “renewable energy” as “electric energy generated from solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or additions of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project.” “Energy efficiency” can be broadly defined as programs aimed at mitigating the use of energy, reducing harmful emissions, and decreasing overall energy consumption.

- **Working with Other Recovery Act Programs:** DOL is partnering with other federal agencies to support the creation of jobs by developing a pipeline of skilled workers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Where possible, ETA encourages applicants to connect their workforce development strategies to other Recovery Act funded projects that create jobs or impact the skill requirements of existing jobs. ETA recommends that applicants review other parts of the Recovery Act, with a focus on the activities funded through the Department of Energy (Energy), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Education (Education) and others.