



## DOL ANNOUNCES GREEN JOBS GRANTS – \$5 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR GREEN CAPACITY BUILDING



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 **Green Capacity Building**. A summary of the Solicitation for Grant Applications for **Green Capacity Building 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.

### **Green Capacity Building Grants**

- **Purpose:** This SGA supports capacity building for organizations to provide training for entry-level positions leading to career pathways and/or additional training in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries described in Section 171 (e)(1)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). Funds are available for projects that build the capacity of DOL-funded training programs to ensure that targeted groups are prepared to meet the needs of our country's expanding green industries. Only active DOL-funded grantees specified in Part III of this SGA are eligible to apply.
- **Funding Available:** The Green Capacity Building Grants contains approximately \$5 million in grant funds authorized by the Recovery Act.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants are limited to the following DOL grantees who received funding through the SGA number indicated in the parentheses: Indian and Native American Program

(SGA/DFA PY 07-04), National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) (SGA/DFA PY 06-04), Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (PRI) (SGA/DFA PY 08-03 & SGA/DFA PY 07-05), Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) (SGA/DFA PY 07-02 & SGA/DFA PY 05-06), Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations (WANTO) (SGA/DFA PY 07-08 & SGA/DFA PY 06-01), Advancing Registered Apprenticeship into the 21st Century: Collaborating for Success (SGA/DFA PY 08-11), YouthBuild (SGA/DFA PY 08-07 & SGA/DFA PY 06-08), and Young Offender Grants (SGA/DFA PY 08-09, SGA/DFA PY 06-10, & SGA/DFA PY 06-14).

- **Grant Amounts:** DOL ETA intends to fund between 50 and 100 grants ranging from approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- **Deadline:** The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is August 5, 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.