



DOL ANNOUNCES GREEN JOBS GRANTS – \$100 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP



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 **Energy Training Partnership**. A summary of the Solicitation for Grant Applications for **Energy Training Partnership 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.

Energy Training Partnership Grants

- **Purpose:** Energy Training Partnership funds are intended to provide training and placement services for workers that prepare them to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as green occupations within other industries.
- **Funding Available:** The Energy Training Partnership Grants contains approximately \$100 million in grant funds authorized by the Recovery Act. Approximately \$25 million of the total funds available through this Solicitation will be awarded for projects serving communities impacted by auto industry restructuring.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Projects funded through this SGA will be implemented by partnerships made up of a diverse set of stakeholders. Eligible applicants are private nonprofit organizations that must apply under one of two categories: 1) National labor-management organizations with local

networks or 2) Statewide or local nonprofit partnerships. All applicants are expected to work in conjunction with partnerships consisting of labor organizations, employers, Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), and other organizations as defined in section 171(e)(2)(B)(ii) of WIA. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include the education and training community (such as secondary, community and technical colleges, registered apprenticeship training programs, four year colleges and universities, technical and vocational training and others), Federal partners such as DOL/ETA's Office of Apprenticeship or the appropriate State Apprenticeship Agency, State entities with experience in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, community-based and faith-based organizations, and organizations implementing projects funded by the Recovery Act. Applications funding registered apprenticeship and/or pre-apprenticeship strategies are strongly encouraged.

- **Grant Amounts:** ETA intends to fund 20 – 30 projects ranging from approximately \$2 to \$5 million each.
- **Deadline:** The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is September 4, 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.