



DOL ANNOUNCES GREEN JOBS GRANTS – \$150 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY



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 **Pathways Out of Poverty**. A summary of the Solicitation for Grant Applications for **Pathways Out of Poverty 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.

Pathways Out of Poverty Grants

- **Purpose:** Pathways Out of Poverty Grant funds are intended to integrate training and supportive services into cohesive programs that will help target populations find pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.
- **Funding Available:** The Pathways Out of Poverty Grants contains approximately \$150 million in grant funds authorized by the Recovery Act.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Two types of applicants will be funded through this solicitation: 1) national nonprofit entities with networks of local affiliates, coalition members or other established partners, and 2) local entities. Projects in each community served must be implemented by a strategic partnership that includes, at a minimum: nonprofit organizations, such as community and faith-

based organizations; the public workforce investment system; the education and training community; labor organizations; and employers and industry-related organizations. All applicants must have experience serving target populations. Populations eligible to receive services include unemployed individuals, high school dropouts, individuals with a criminal record and disadvantaged individuals within areas of high poverty. As part of the technical review process, points will be awarded for applications that demonstrate that the proposed project serves areas of high poverty. Proposals should 1) include sound recruitment and referral strategies for targeted populations; (2) integrate basic skills and work-readiness training with occupational skills training, as necessary; (3) combine supportive services with training services to help participants overcome barriers to employment, as necessary; and (4) provide training services at times and locations that are easily accessible to targeted populations.

- **Grant Amounts:** ETA intends to fund grants ranging from approximately \$3 to \$8 million for national grantees, and grants ranging from approximately \$2 to \$4 million for local grantees.
- **Deadline:** The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is September 29, 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.