

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Energy Training Partnership Grants

Recovery Act: Competitive Grants for Green Job Training

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The purpose of these grants is to teach workers the skills required in emerging industries including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Energy Training Partnership Grants Overview

The Energy Training Partnership grant program will provide training for workers that prepares them to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as green occupations within other industries. These grants invest in partnerships made up of diverse set of stakeholders including labor organizations, public or private employers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, and the workforce system. Bringing together the workforce expertise of these groups will allow grantees to develop programs that are responsive to the needs of both workers and employers, and that provide participants with the support needed to successfully complete training. The grantees will utilize these partnerships to design and distribute training approaches that lead to portable industry credentials and employment, including registered apprenticeship. The Department of Labor awarded grants to workforce development projects that focused on connecting target populations to career pathways in green industries. The Department also was interested in projects that contributed to our understanding of green industries and jobs that clean and enhance our environment.

These investments are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Provide training and placement services in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries for workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy, individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, and unemployed workers.
- All training and placement activities funded through this grant program will be conducted at the local level.
- A portion of the total funds – approximately \$25 million – are reserved for projects that will serve communities impacted by automotive industry-related restructuring.

Grantee Summaries

Twenty-five (25) awards ranging from approximately \$1.4 million to \$5 million each were made to private nonprofit organizations that applied under one of two categories: (1) National labor-management organizations with local networks, or (2) Statewide or local nonprofit partnerships. The awards are included in the list below:

Grantee: Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Location of Grant Activities: Oregon and Washington
Areas Affected: Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Yamhil Counties in Oregon and Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties in Washington
Auto-Impacted County Being Served: N/A
Industries of Focus: Renewable Electric Power and Biofuels
Highlighted Participants Served: Unemployed and dislocated workers and employed workers at local renewable energy industries
National or Local Grant: Local
Amount: \$5,000,000

Key Partnerships: Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Dist. No 24, Northwest Oregon Labor Council, Energy Trust of Oregon, four local Workforce Investment Boards and the bi-state WorkSource system, six community colleges, and economic development partners

Project Description: The project will build a skilled workforce to support companies that generate power, and assist local manufacturers in retooling their workforce. Grant funds will be used to increase the capacity of local area training providers to: 1) provide industry-identified training; 2) analyze the technical workforce skills and production requirements of potential suppliers to target industries; and, 3) retool existing workers to meet the changing needs of their companies around renewable energy. The project will implement a strategy to help workers enter careers in the renewable energy industries. At project implementation, workforce and training partners will begin to enroll and train workers in occupational and technical skills needed for occupations identified as in demand by the target industries. The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership will conduct an analysis of the technical skills and production requirements of the renewable electric industry. The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership will also serve as a conduit between industry and the WorkSource system throughout the project.

Proposed Outcomes: Approximately 1,670 participants will complete education and training and it is anticipated that 1,325 participants will receive a degree or certificate.

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