

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDIES

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Weatherizers Win In Department of Labor Green Jobs Program! Akanimo Udo and Meg Power Jan 21, 2010

In the last few weeks, US DOL has announced the winning applications for \$256 million in three categories of grants related to green jobs in building and energy efficiency: Energy Training Partnership Grants; Pathways out of Poverty Grants; and Green Capacity Building Grants. These are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for a total of \$500 million in grants to projects that will prepare disadvantaged workers for green jobs and upgrade training systems to provide them the needed resources.

A number of local Weatherization agencies are part of winning partnerships that have, all together, received \$48,693,637 to develop and provide education and training in energy efficiency and renewable energy installation to 18,914 future 'green-collar' workers.

1. **Energy Training Partnership Grants:** \$100 million awards ranging between \$1.4 million to \$5 million each, to 25 local private nonprofit organizations and their partners. The projects will help dislocated workers and others, including veterans, women and minorities, find jobs by providing training in renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. (Approximately \$25 million of the funds have been reserved for communities impacted by automotive industry-related restructuring)

Among the recipients were three Weatherization agencies: **Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, FL**, [Community Housing Partners Corporation, VA](#), and [Central Vermont Community Action Council, VT](#). Their three awards totaled \$11,992,331; they will provide approximately 12,080 trainees with residential energy efficiency and solar installation training and portable industry credentials and with experience in apprenticeships. The Weatherizers partnered with local and regional workforce development programs.

All the successful, grant applicants demonstrated that their grants would be used to support broad strategic partnerships that leverage many resources to achieve project goals. They were one of three types of organization: (1) National labor management organization with local networks, (2) Statewide or (3) local nonprofit partnerships. Altogether, the projects will provide training credentials and green jobs to 34,228 trainees.

[For more information about all Energy Training Partnership Grant recipients click here!](#)

2. ***Pathway out of Poverty Grants:*** \$150 million in awards ranging from approximately \$1 million to \$8 million each, will help 20,461 disadvantaged people find green jobs. The grants are location-specific; they target minorities, at-risk youth, and disadvantaged adult job seekers that live in areas with poverty rates 15 percent or higher.

Eleven Weatherization agencies participate in a quarter of the partnerships funded. These awards totaled \$36,331,942 to provide approximately 6,728 trainees with training for clean energy careers : **Central Florida Community Action Agency, FL; Energy Coordinating Agency, PA ; Association for Energy Affordability (AEA), NY; N.E Florida Community Action Agency, FL; Community Action Council of the Lehigh Valley, PA; Butte County Community Action Association CA; Community Environmental Center, NY; Community Action**

Organization of Delaware, Madison & Union Counties, OH; Broward County Minority Builders, FL; Lincoln Action Program, NE; and Action for Bridgeport Community Development, CT. Their projects supply training in job readiness and skill development as well as sector-based technical skills to unemployed individuals, high school dropouts, women, and minorities.

All the Pathway projects are implemented by partnerships that include nonprofit organizations, the public workforce system, the education and training community, employers, and labor organizations. Grant recipients are required to have experience and the flexibility to provide supportive services to help economically disadvantaged populations overcome barriers to employment. This has resulted in two types of award recipients: 1) national nonprofit entities with networks of local affiliates, coalition members or other established partners; and 2) local entities including nonprofit organizations, such as community of faith-based organizations, the public workforce development system, the education and training community, and labor organizations

[For more Information about Pathway out of Poverty training grants click here!](#)

3. ***Green Capacity Building Grants:*** \$5.8 million in awards ranging from \$42,000 to \$100,000 were awarded to 62 current Department of Labor grantees to help members of under-served communities find jobs in green industries. The projects chosen are broadly targeted to organizations that promote youth empowerment through vocational job trainings. At the community level all involve linkages between local and regional workforce development boards, community empowerment groups, and organized labor.

Among the direct recipients two are local Weatherization Agencies that also manage workforce development programs: [Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, CA](#) and [Maui Economic Opportunity Inc, HI](#) have received \$185,910 to

create a vocational training center for entry level solar installer and energy efficiency auditor training. In addition, two weatherization organizations that provide training are members of partnerships with youth empowerment and workforce development programs **that** received awards totaling \$183,454 to help 74 trainees become certified in weatherization and solar photovoltaic installation: **Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino, CA and Indiana Community Action Association, IN.**

All the Capacity Building funds will support expanded training programs through staff professional development, curriculum development, partnership development, and where necessary, the hiring of additional staff. Project outcomes will range from the development of research-based green jobs curricula to direct support for professional development and job training.

[For more Information about Green Capacity Building grants click here!](#)

For more resources about the emerging Green-Collar career paths that can begin in the Weatherization Program see the [Weatherization Plus website](#).

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