

Department of Labor - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Wisconsin Strategic Workforce Training Initiatives

▪ Department of Labor – ARRA Occupational Training Initiatives

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has issued the following several solicitation grant announcements (SGA) for targeted occupational training initiatives. DOL training initiatives include:

- Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries (SGA/DFA PY 09-01) will provide approximately \$220 million in grant funds. The purpose of this program is to teach workers the necessary skills for, and help them pursue careers in, health care and other high growth and emerging industry sectors. Eligible applicants include public entities and private nonprofit organizations. ETA intends to fund 45-65 grants ranging from approximately \$2 to \$5 million. Approximately \$25 million of the total funds available through this SGA will be reserved for projects serving communities impacted by automotive-related restructuring. Applications are due October 5, 2009.
- State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants (SGA/DFA PY 08-17) will provide \$50 million in grant funds to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor market information, and to enhance the labor exchange infrastructure for careers within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Eligible applicants are State Workforce Agencies, as States are expected to use workforce and labor market information and data as the foundation on which to build and implement effective workforce development strategies. ETA intends to fund individual State grants ranging from approximately \$750,000 to \$1,250,000. Applications are due August 14, 2009.
- Energy Training Partnership Grants (SGA/DFA PY 08-18) will provide approximately \$100 million in grant funds to 20-30 projects ranging from approximately \$2 to \$5 million each. Energy Training Partnership funds are intended to provide training for workers that prepares them to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as green occupations within other industries. Individuals eligible for training include 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. Proposed projects must be developed and implemented through strategic partnerships. Applications are due September 4, 2009.
- Pathways Out of Poverty (SGA/DFA PY 08-19) will provide approximately \$150 million in grant funds for projects that provide training and placement services to provide pathways out of poverty and into employment within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Grantees selected from two separate 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. 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. Applications are due September 29, 2009.
- State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training Grants (SGA/DFA PY-08-20) will provide approximately \$190 million in grant funds to State Workforce Investment Boards of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. In order to highlight the important role States play in building a national green economy, the Department is investing in workforce

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sector strategies that target energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. DOL encourages a strategic planning process that aligns the Governor's overall workforce vision, State energy policies, and local and regional training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. This strategic planning process is an opportunity to develop a statewide energy sector strategy through a comprehensive partnership and development of a Sector Plan. A portion of the funds under this SGA will be reserved for communities or regions undergoing auto industry related restructurings. The eligible applicants for this SGA are State Workforce Investment Boards in partnership with their State Workforce Agency, local Workforce Investment Boards or regional consortia of Boards, and One Stop Career Center delivery systems. ETA intends to fund grants ranging from approximately \$2 to \$6 million. Applications are due October 20, 2009.

- Green Capacity Building Grants (SGA/DFA PY 08-21) will provide approximately \$5 million in grant funds 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 (eligible grantees specified in the SGA) are eligible to apply. Specifically, 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. The Department expects to award between 50 and 100 grants under this competition, providing awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Applications are due August 5, 2009.

▪ **Wisconsin Strategic Workforce Training Initiatives**

In March, Governor Doyle announced \$5.89 million for strategic workforce training initiatives to prepare Wisconsin workers and businesses to succeed in the future economy. These initiatives include:

- Sector Strategies Initiatives. The Wisconsin Sector Strategies Initiative provides nearly \$3 million in federal funds over the next two years. As a first step, \$490,000 will be awarded to Grants will be awarded to workforce development boards to bring together leaders from industry, labor, education, economic development and workforce development to identify the workforce needs of high-growth sectors and develop strategies to meet those needs. Industry specific partnerships, organized around the state's Grow Wisconsin regions, can seek grants that will leverage additional resources and fund the training of workers for jobs in demand. For regions that are ready, grant money for training will be available immediately.
- \$300,000 for Skills Jump Start Grants. The grants will help individuals who lack a high school diploma complete their basic education, and at the same time, receive job training at technical colleges for employment in high-demand sectors, such as manufacturing and health care.
- \$700,000 for Emerging Industries Skills Partnership. This program is the second round of grants to meet the workforce needs in advanced manufacturing, biotechnology and renewable energy.
- \$85,000 for Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification. The funding will support manufacturing skill assessment efforts and encourage enrollment in manufacturing related training. The governor has set a goal of having 40 percent of the state's production workers earn MSSC credentials by 2016.
- \$175,000 for Skills Assessment and Work Readiness Certification. This funding will support pilot projects to develop a standard method to assess the skills of job seekers and certify them as job

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ready.

- \$140,000 for Career 101 Pilots. The funding will help school district establish pilots that more effectively inform students of career opportunities in high demand occupations and help them chart a course to achieve their career goals.