

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 44-08
	DATE May 15, 2009

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS
STATE LABOR COMMISSIONERS
STATE UI DIRECTORS
STATE APPRENTICESHIP DIRECTORS
COMPREHENSIVE AND AFFILIATE ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER
DIRECTORS
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM GRANTEES
INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM GRANTEES
MIGRANT SEASONAL FARMWORKER GRANTEES

FROM: DOUGLAS F. SMALL /s/
Deputy Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Competitive Grants for Green Job Training

1. **Purpose.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation’s economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. Among other funding directed toward the Department of Labor (DOL), the Recovery Act provides \$750 million for a program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industries. Of the \$750 million allotted for competitive grants, 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 of 1998 (WIA), as amended to incorporate the Green Jobs Act of 2007. This notice describes the Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA) initial plans for awarding these “green job training” funds under the Recovery Act so that interested organizations can begin to plan for the application process and can strengthen or build partnerships to be successful applicants.

2. **References.**

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115, Division A, Title VIII (February 17, 2009).
- Green Jobs Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-140, 121 Stat. 1748 (codified at 29 U.S.C. § 2916).
- Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, 112 Stat. 939 (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 2801 *et seq.*)

- Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 30-08, “Overview of the Employment and Training Administration’s implementation strategy for Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 17-08, “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Funds Financial Reporting Requirements”

3. Background and Strategic Vision for Competitive Grants Under the Recovery Act. ETA is currently formulating a series of grant competitions for these funds as authorized under the Recovery Act. Through these grants, ETA seeks to 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. ETA will promote economic recovery by supporting the training needs of workers and employers in high growth and emerging industries. These grants also 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 and other industry sectors.

Across the series of grant competitions, these partnerships will undertake collaborative activities designed to define emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs and train qualified workers to fill them. States will play a key role, working with public and private sector partners, to coordinate and gather information on skill qualifications for existing, new and emerging careers, and will publicize this information. State Workforce Investment Boards (SWIBs) will also play a key role in developing plans and leading renewable energy and energy efficiency employment efforts across a partnership, and implementing training programs in local and regional workforce areas. One-Stop Career Centers and a wide variety of community and labor organizations eligible for these grants will also benefit from these state research and planning efforts to meet the training needs of workers and employers in emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. 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. Further, these organizations and partnerships will assist individuals in entering career pathways leading to economic self-sufficiency.

Finally, it is the Department’s vision for these competitive grants to serve the purpose of training and teaching workers the skills being created 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.

4. Overview of Potential Funding Opportunities. In order to implement this strategic vision, ETA is tentatively planning to issue a series of Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGAs). An overview of the **potential** solicitations anticipated for funding is provided below. Please be advised that the final funding opportunities may vary from those currently anticipated.

A. State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants: This will be a competition among State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) or consortia of the SWAs of multiple States to

collect, analyze, and disseminate labor market information, as well as develop a labor exchange infrastructure to direct individuals to careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of WIA. The activities conducted by successful applicants will be coordinated with and complement work conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. ETA strongly encourages states to form consortia and jointly apply for these grants, and the SGA will reflect a preference for such approaches. Grantees will track workforce trends resulting directly or indirectly from Recovery Act investments, as well as related state, local, or private sector investments that create jobs in energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. In addition, grantees will improve labor exchange infrastructure to populate occupational listings in job banks. Activities should be focused on ensuring that workers trained for green jobs will be able to find employment in energy efficiency and renewal energy sectors after they finish training. This means identifying the existing and emerging needs of employers in these emerging industries, in terms of both skills and job openings, and making available employee placement tools to help match workers with those jobs.

B. Energy Training Partnership Grants: Two separate applicant pools will compete for grants under this solicitation: (1) eligible national labor-management organizations with local networks; and (2) statewide or local strategic nonprofit partnerships consisting of labor-management organizations, labor, business, Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), and other organizations. These grantees will deliver training that leads to employment in careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of WIA. Grantees will utilize partnerships to design and distribute training approaches that lead to portable industry credentials and employment, including registered apprenticeship. These grants will focus on dislocated and incumbent workers. **A portion of the funds under this SGA will be reserved for communities or regions undergoing auto industry related restructuring as discussed below.**

C. Pathways Out of Poverty Grants: Two separate applicant pools will compete for grants under this solicitation: (1) eligible national community-based and faith-based organizations with local networks; and (2) local partnerships that include community-based organizations, education and training institutions, business, and labor organizations. Successful applicants will provide training and placement services to individuals seeking pathways out of poverty and into employment within the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171 (e)(1)(B)(ii) of WIA. Targeted populations include low-income and under-skilled workers, unemployed youth and adults, high school dropouts, or other underserved populations, with priority given to areas of high poverty. Successful training programs for these populations will: (1) include sound recruitment and referral strategies for targeted populations; (2) integrate basic skills and work-readiness training with occupational skills training; (3) combine supportive services with training services to help participants overcome barriers to employment; and, (4) provide services at times and locations that are easily accessible.

D. State Sector Training Grants: This will be a competition among SWIBs in partnership with their SWA, local WIBs and One Stop Career Center Systems, or regional consortia of Boards. Grant funds awarded under this SGA will be used to provide training and job placement activities aligned with a workforce sector strategy that will target energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The strategy will reflect state energy policies

and how they impact the work of the local Workforce Investment system and One Stop Career Centers to prepare workers for the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171(e)(1)(B) of WIA. Successful applicants will demonstrate: (1) strong partnerships to develop the energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce; (2) relationships with other state agencies receiving Recovery Act funding to support strategic planning and implementation efforts; and (3) ability to implement a workforce development approach that targets the needs of a specific industry sector and provides an integrated system of education, training, and supportive services. **A portion of the funds under this SGA will be reserved for communities or regions undergoing auto industry related restructuring as discussed below.**

E. Green Capacity Building Grants: This will be a competition to build the capacity of current DOL grantees to prepare targeted populations for employment in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors described in Section 171(e)(1)(B) of WIA. These awards will support organizations as they update existing training and job placement programs for the emerging green economy in order to facilitate the success of other projects under the Green Jobs Initiative. Key activities will include the purchase of equipment, staff professional development, curriculum development and/or adaptation, partnership development, and where necessary, the hiring of additional staff.

Competitive Grant Focus for Areas Undergoing Significant Automotive Related

Industrial Restructuring: A portion of the funding under the Energy Training Partnership Grants and the State Sector Training Grants will be reserved to facilitate the transition of auto and auto-related workers to the green/energy efficient workforce. Grants will provide job training, counseling, and placement services to residents from auto communities or incumbent and dislocated workers affected by significant automotive-related restructuring.

To qualify for these grants, the geographic area proposed to be served by the project must have within it at least one motor vehicle manufacturer or automotive part supplier and have experienced significant dislocation. Prospective grantees may also propose to serve workers from area facilities who reside outside the defined area. For purposes of these SGAs, the industry is defined to include original equipment manufacturers and Tier 1, 2 and 3 part suppliers.

5. **Estimated Schedule of Funding**. We anticipate that Solicitations for Grant Applications will be published in June 2009, with application closing dates starting late summer. It is DOL's intention to implement the Recovery Act expeditiously and effectively, with full transparency and accountability of our expenditures.
6. **Action Requested**. States are encouraged to share broadly this notice with local WIBs and other stakeholders.
7. **Inquires**. Notice of all Federal solicitations is posted in the Federal Register and at www.grants.gov and DOL-specific information is also available on our Web site at www.doleta.gov/grants. Additional information on funding available through the Recovery Act is on the Web at www.doleta.gov/recovery.

Please note that the Department's staff, including the Office of Grants and Contracts

Management, is unable to answer inquiries related to any of the potential competitive opportunities outlined above. Each future SGA will contain detailed instructions about times and dates for prospective applicant conferences and for submitting a complete application.