

THE BUILDING FUTURES ENERGY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP
Proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor

Project Summary and List of Partners

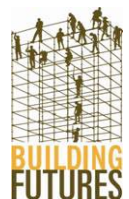
The Providence Plan – a nonprofit organization working to improve the social and economic well-being of residents in Providence and Rhode Island – has received \$3,720,000 to support the *Building Futures Energy Training Partnership*. The purpose of our project is to train and place entry-level and dislocated workers for careers in the energy-efficient construction and renewable power industries.

Since 2006, The Providence Plan (ProvPlan) has been the organizational home of *Building Futures* – a state-designated industry partnership with a mission to help the construction industry meet its present and future labor needs, while creating career opportunities for low-income residents through registered apprenticeships. Through the vehicle of Building Futures, we have led an engaged coalition of industry employers, labor organizations, professional associations, state agencies, and community groups. We have created a pre-apprenticeship model certified by the Rhode Island Apprenticeship Council, streamlined access to construction careers for urban residents, and implemented policy shifts that increase entry-level positions on worksites. During its start-up phase, Building Futures has prepared dozens of residents for building trades jobs and placed them in registered apprenticeships.

Rhode Island will be the target area for the *Building Futures Energy Training Partnership*, with our entry-level workforce strategies focused on the state's poorest urban communities. In July 2009, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the country (12.7%) – an outcome largely attributed to the decline of a once-vibrant manufacturing sector that has created a gap of middle-class jobs. A core strategy to reverse this economic decline is to grow the state's green economy.

Through our *Energy Training Partnership* initiative, Building Futures will target two green industries poised for growth: 1) *Energy-efficient building construction and retrofit* and 2) *Renewable electric power*. In terms of energy-efficient buildings, Rhode Island's construction sector will rebound over the next two years as developers move ahead with an ambitious slate of green building and the state invests \$341 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in green construction, retrofit projects, and sustainable housing developments. Policy and business leaders in Rhode Island have identified renewable electric power as a high-priority economic opportunity in the coming years. The state has partnered with *Deepwater Wind* to construct the country's first off-shore wind farm and turbine manufacturing facility (onshore). Collectively, these projects represent major investments in the state's green energy infrastructure, but only if we have the skilled workforce to meet demand.

To prepare for growth, Building Futures and its partners have developed a project with three objectives: 1) Deliver a pre-apprenticeship model that puts 100 unemployed young, urban residents on a successful pathway into green construction careers; 2) Work with labor organizations to integrate certified green-training modules into existing apprenticeship curricula to ensure that 650 registered apprentices receive green training; and 3) Upgrade the technical skills of 850 dislocated journeymen so the industry can respond to green construction and renewable energy projects. With a track record of delivering high-quality sectoral training and proven methods for recruitment, training, placement, and retention, Building Futures and its partners will serve 1,600 residents over two years.



Through our prior collaboration with all sectors of the construction industry, Building Futures has leveraged several partnerships that will play a major role in project activities. Chief among our partners are six local labor organizations – the Laborers, Electricians, Carpenters, Ironworkers, Plumbers, and Painters. Building Futures will deliver a certified pre-apprenticeship model to our participants, while labor organizations will leverage their proven registered apprenticeship system to cultivate a green-ready workforce and support journey-level upgrades. Employer partners will work with Building Futures to align training with emerging sector needs, support placements from our model, and implement procedures in which green-certified craftsmen are given priority dispatch on energy-related jobs. The state’s workforce investment boards and community-based organizations will recruit participants, support multiple pathways, and promote policies that grow the green economy.

The *Building Futures Energy Training Partnership* will be coordinated by highly qualified staff – with decades of workforce development experience and a strong commitment to participant tracking and performance management. Having successfully operated more than 20 federal grants since 2004 – including DOL and ARRA grants – ProvPlan has a demonstrated track record of grants management and federal funds stewardship.

Partner Organizations Identified in Project Letter of Commitment

Lead Applicant

The Providence Plan/Building Futures

Labor Partners

Rhode Island Building Trades Council
Laborers Intl. Union of North America, Local 271
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 99
United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 94
Ironworkers Union, Local 37
United Assn of Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 51
Intl. Union of Painters & Allied Trades, Local 195

Employers

Gilbane Building Company
Dimeo Construction Company
Deepwater Wind
ECI Green

Industry Organizations

Build RI
Rhode Island Associated General Contractors

Federal, State, and City Government

U.S. Dept. of Labor - Office of Apprenticeship
Rhode Island Department of Education
Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
City of Providence

Workforce Training and Education Agencies

Governor’s Workforce Board of Rhode Island
Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island
Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston
Providence Public School District
Rhode Island State Apprenticeship Council
Community College of Rhode Island

Community Organizations

YouthBuild Providence
Rhode Island Family Life Center
Rhode Island Local Initiatives Support Corporation

