

News Release

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Rhode Island workers to benefit from \$3.7 million green jobs training grant through Recovery Act, US Department of Labor announces

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced nearly \$100 million in green jobs training grants, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The grants will support job training programs to help dislocated workers and others, including veterans, women, African Americans and Latinos, find jobs in expanding green industries and related occupations. Approximately \$28 million of the total funds will support projects in communities impacted by auto industry restructuring.

Workers in Rhode Island will benefit from a grant of \$3,720,000 to The Providence Plan. The organization’s Energy Training Partnership will deliver pre-apprenticeship training in green construction for unemployed workers, partner with labor organizations to integrate green-training into existing apprenticeship curricula and upgrade the skills of journey-level trades workers in green technologies.

“Today’s announcement is part of the administration’s long-term commitment to fostering both immediate economic revitalization and a clean energy future. It’s an investment that will help American workers succeed while doing good,” said Secretary Solis. “Our outstanding award recipients were selected because their proposed projects will connect workers to career pathways in green industries and occupations through critical, diverse partnerships.”

Through the Energy Training Partnership Grants being administered by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, 25 projects will receive grants ranging from approximately \$1.4 to \$5 million. These grants are built on strategic partnerships – requiring labor and business to work together. Training activities funded through this grant program will be individually tailored based on occupations and skills identified as in-demand in local areas around the country. Training programs will seek to prepare workers for a range of careers including: hybrid/electric auto technicians, weatherization specialists, wind and energy auditors, and solar panel installers.

Grant recipients are expected to work in conjunction with a diverse range of partners, including labor organizations, employers and Workforce Investment Boards. 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 career opportunities in registered apprenticeship programs.

These grants are part of a larger Recovery Act initiative — totaling \$500 million — to fund workforce development projects that promote economic growth by preparing workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. The Department of Labor expects to release funding for two remaining green grant award categories over the next several weeks.

For a full listing and project description of each grant recipient, visit <http://www.doleta.gov>. To view a video or listen to radio actualities (in English and Spanish) with introductions to the green jobs training grants by Secretary Solis, visit <http://www.dol.gov/dol/media/webcast/grants>.

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