



ARRA GREEN JOBS TRAINING: ARKANSAS ENERGY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP AND TRAINING GRANT

Arkansas Energy Sector Partnership

Grantee: Arkansas Workforce Investment Board/Department of Workforce Services

Purpose: The Arkansas Energy Sector Partnership (AESP) will provide funding to enable Arkansas workers statewide to be trained in the skills required to succeed in green jobs.

Industries of Focus: Energy Efficient Building, Construction, and Retrofitting; Renewable Electric Power; and Energy Efficiency Assessment.

Participants Served: Training is available through Community Colleges, Apprenticeship Programs, and other training providers. Special efforts will be made to recruit participants from the priority populations of high school dropouts, offenders, unemployed workers, and other disadvantaged, at-risk individuals. In addition, special efforts will be made to recruit individuals residing in the auto-impacted counties of Cleburne, Desha, Greene, and Logan Counties.

Amount: \$4,866,479 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds

Timeframe: January 29, 2010 to January 28, 2013

Key Partnerships: Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, Arkansas Apprenticeship Coalition, Arkansas State Office of Apprenticeship, Winrock International, Arkansas Department of Career Education, nine Regional Partnership Teams which include all ten Workforce Investment Boards, Non-Profits, and Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Industries.

Project Description: The Arkansas Energy Sector Partnership will enable the development and deployment of materials and programs that will be used by Arkansas' 22 two-year colleges and 7 apprenticeship programs to prepare participants for careers in the targeted industries. The three Energy Centers of Excellence will develop training that can be distributed statewide. Training activities will include high school concurrent credit programs, college certificate and degree programs, incumbent worker training, apprenticeship programs, workshops for employed workers to gain green skills, and training for disadvantaged populations.

Proposed Outcomes: A total of 2,800 participants will be recruited and referred to training programs. Of these participants, 1,792 will complete education and training and 1,434 will receive a certificate, degree or complete an apprenticeship program. Additionally, 1,371 participants who complete training will be placed in energy efficient occupations. Labor and Apprenticeship Programs will recruit 300 participants. Winrock International and non-profits will recruit 300 participants from priority populations.

Curriculum and training programs developed to provide training for green jobs will remain available after completion of the grant time period. The partnerships that are developed and strengthened during the life of the grant will also continue. The sustained partnerships and training programs will enable Arkansans to continue to update their skills in green industries well into the future.

DOL State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training Grants Overview

To highlight the important role States play in building a national green economy, the Department of Labor is investing in workforce sector strategies that target energy efficiency and renewable energy industries as well as other green industries. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) encouraged grantees to engage in a strategic planning process that aligns with the Governor's overall workforce vision, State energy policies, and local and regional training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. The strategic planning process was an opportunity for States to develop a statewide energy sector strategy through a comprehensive partnership and development of a Sector Plan. These investments foster the development of a national workforce that is ready to meet the demands of the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. A portion of the funds under this SGA will be reserved for communities or regions undergoing auto industry related restructurings.

These investments are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Create an integrated system of education, training, and supportive services that promotes skill attainment and career pathway development for low-income, low-skilled workers leading to employment in green industries;
- Support States in implementing a comprehensive statewide energy sector strategy including the Governor's overall workforce vision, State energy policies, and training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors;
- Build and strengthen partnerships dedicated to building a skilled energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce;
- Develop new partnerships with other agencies receiving Recovery Act funds to support strategic planning and implementation efforts.

Thirty four (34) awards ranging from approximately \$2 million to \$6 million each were made to State Workforce Investment Boards (SWIBs) in partnership with their State Workforce Agency, local Workforce Investment Boards or regional consortia of Boards, and One Stop Career Center delivery systems.

Recovery Act: Competitive Grants for Green Job Training

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The purpose of these grants is to teach workers the skills required in emerging industries including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"Most important, the tremendous growth of jobs in Arkansas' clean energy economy shows that what's good for the environment is also what's good for our economic development. And it's the right thing to do... right for the environment, right for our economy, and right for Arkansas." - Governor Mike Beebe

Contact: Lisa Ferrell
Project Coordinator
#2 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-371-1024
lisa.ferrell@arkansas.gov

