

# **DOL State Energy Sector Partnership Grant – Synopsis**

## **7-25-09**

**Who Can Apply:** State Workforce Investment Boards

**Applications Due:** October 20, 2009

**Grant Period:** 36 months

**Grant Amount:** \$2-6 million. No match required but leveraged resources strongly encouraged and may affect scoring.

### **What it Funds:**

SESP grant funds will be used to “provide training, job placement and related activities that reflect a comprehensive statewide energy sector strategy...” Funds the State Workforce Investment Board to convene and manage the State Energy Sector Partnership. The Partnership members have two primary activities: strategic planning and development of an energy workforce sector plan including selecting local and regional project teams; oversight and implementation of the State Energy Sector Plan.

“Local and regional project teams funded through this SGA must implement comprehensive projects that include: (a) Robust recruitment strategies; (b) seamless integration of supportive service strategies where necessary to help the targeted individuals succeed; (c) use of the One Stop Career Center delivery system to provide case management; (d) high-quality training that leads to a degree or certificate, as appropriate. Training should use methods such as on-the-job training blended with classroom training, customized training with an existing registered apprenticeship program or labor-management partnership, technology-based learning, or other appropriate training strategies. In addition, training courses should be offered at alternate times (such as evening and weekend programs) and in locations that are most convenient and accessible to participants; and (e) follow-up and retention services, providing individuals the resources necessary to attain economic selfsufficiency.”

### **Definitions for Purpose of Grant:**

“Renewable energy” = electric energy from solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (tidal, wave, current, and thermal) geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydro generation capacity achieved from increased efficiencies or additions of new capacity at existing hydro projects.

“Energy efficiency” = programs aimed at mitigating the use of energy, reducing harmful emissions, and decreasing overall energy consumption.

**Application Must:**

- Encourage strategic planning process that aligns the Governor's workforce vision, state energy strategies and local and regional training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors (See Aspen Institute Workforce Strategies Initiative <http://www.aspenwsi.org/WSIssector-index.asp> – primary purpose of sector strategy is to provide an integrated system of education, training, and supportive services that promote skill attainment and career pathway development for workers.)
  - Sector strategy designed and implementation by a range of institutions and group working together including community based, business and industry, educational institutions such as community colleges, public workforce system, labor-management partnerships and others
  - Many sector strategies include strategies for improving employability and career pathway development for low income skilled workers, but can benefit others such as incumbent workers in need of skill upgrade or laid off workers
  - Some sector initiatives focus on one target industry while other encompass several related industries

Note: Successful states have examined labor market trends, developed an understand of specific industry sector workforce needs and promoted training that responds to those immediate employer needs within the identified sectors.

- Address overall outcome development of workforce ready to meet demands of energy efficiency and renewable energy industries (defined in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the WIA) --
  - energy efficiency building construction and retrofit industries,
  - renewable electric power industry,
  - energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry,
  - biofuels industry,
  - deconstruction and materials use industry,
  - energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial or industrial sectors,
  - manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials

Or, strategies that train for green occupations from the following if WIB can offer supporting data demonstrating these are emerging industries which are producing jobs in communities:

- ✓ green construction
- ✓ environmental protection
- ✓ sustainable agriculture including healthy food production
- ✓ forestry
- ✓ recycling and waste reduction

- Focus on connecting targeted populations (including auto workers) to career pathways in green industries.

See Greening of the World of Work : Implications for O\*NET-SOC and New and Emerging Occupations <http://www.onecenter.org/reports/Green.html> which reflects three categories of occupations 1) *existing occupations expected to experience primarily an increase in employment demand* 2) *existing occupations with significant change to the work and worker requirements* and 3) *new and emerging occupations*

#### **Applicant: (strongly encouraged)**

- Connect their strategies to other Recovery Act funded projects including Dept of Energy, EPA, HUD, DOT, Dept of Education
- Develop a comprehensive strategic plan prior
  - Developed using an inclusive process designed by WIB and include the following:
    - ✓ Review/analyze governor's workforce vision and goals, energy policy
    - ✓ Establish State strategic vision and goals for preparing workforce to meet the current and emerging needs of the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and align with workforce, education and economic development
    - ✓ Determine the sectors where investments are or will be made and the occupations and skill needs within energy efficiency and renewable energy industries
    - ✓ Determine populations targeted, characteristics of populations, and training activities that address the needs and demands of targeted sectors and targeted populations
    - ✓ Develop an energy sector strategy for training workers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and propose training activities to include delivery of training services through WIB's along with training partners – plan to include how funds will be distributed

#### **Roles of State WIB:**

- Submit SESP application
- If funded:
  - Lead/ staff the State Energy Sector Partnership
  - Serve as project operator responsible for coordinating and managing the Partnership

#### **Formation of State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP):**

- Serve as steering committee for the grant
- Membership – see SGA but must reflect targeted industries
- Activities of SESP members

- Strategic planning and development of Sector Plan including selecting local and regional project teams which will be described in the technical proposal of applicant
- Oversight of the Sector Plan

**Roles of Local and Regional Teams:**

- Identify, access and refer candidates for training
- Connect and place workers
- Identify appropriate training providers
- Identify project leads

**Training Activities:**

- May include cost of faculty/instructors, in house training staff, support staff such as lab or teaching assistants; classroom space; internships, books, materials, and supplies including specialized equipment
- Must teach skills and competencies demanded by the targeted sector
- Must support participant's long term career growth along a defined career pathways such as an articulated career ladder if career pathways exist in targeted sector
- May produce tangible deliverables such as curriculum, training modules, and outreach materials (detailed description needed here if used)

**Other Grant Specifications:**

- Priority for training given to workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy, workers in need of updated training in energy 2 , veterans, unemployed individuals, individuals seeking pathways out of poverty and individuals with criminal record
- No more than 5% of grant funds to be used for supportive services – transportation, child care, dependent care, housing and need related payments-
- Review Information Criteria
 

✓ Statement of need	15
✓ State Energy Sector Partnership	15
✓ Strategy and Work Plan	45
✓ Timeline and Outcomes	20
✓ Suitability for evaluation	5

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