



For Immediate Release
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Education, Training Providers Invited to Apply for Share of \$5.8 Million for Green Job Training Opportunities

Des Moines, IA – On January 29, 2010, Iowa’s Workforce Development Board was awarded \$5,997,000 through a competitive grant sponsored by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for training, placing and retaining workers in renewable energy and energy efficiency industry sectors.

On June 14, 2010, the State Energy Sector Board approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be posted on the IWD website, www.iowaworkforce.org/sesp, on June 17, 2010. Iowa Workforce Development is offering \$5.8 million in grants to enable local energy sector project teams to create and/or sustain green, regionally-focused training and job opportunities for unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers.

“This grant provides a unique opportunity for Iowa,” indicated Iowa Workforce Development Director Elisabeth Buck. “The “green industry” is continuing to grow at a rapid pace and the \$5.8 million in training funds will allow Iowans to up-skill to meet the industry demands.”

Please visit the website in order to complete the required documents, including the “Notification of Local Sector Team Formation”, which is due to the grant officer by June 30, 2010. A tentative timeline is also posted on the website. Grant applications are due by August 20, 2010.

Successful applicants’ proposals will complement the department’s current workforce training and economic recovery efforts in the green jobs sectors. Proposals may include apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training including advanced skills training for the current workforce and basic skill training, curriculum development and customized training. The State of Iowa Energy Sector Partnership grants are designed to teach workers essential skills for emerging industries, including the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. These occupations should have long term demand, offer the potential for high wage, career pathway jobs and support local sourcing and innovation. We anticipate that the funds available for disbursement through this RFP process will train and provide jobs for up to 1,600 Iowans.

Projects must give priority for training and other services provided through the grant to the following target populations:

- Workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy
- Individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries
- Veterans
- Unemployed Individuals
- Individuals seeking employment pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency
- Individuals with a criminal record
- Other individuals, such as untapped labor pools and entry-level and incumbent workers that do not fit into the categories above.

Additional information about the grant can be found at www.iowaworkforce.org/sesp or contact Debra R. Ostrem, Grant Officer, (515) 281-6165 for questions regarding the RFP.

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