



**ARRA GREEN JOBS TRAINING:
PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY GRANT
AWARDS**



Grantee: National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

National or Local Grant: National

City, State: Apache Junction, AZ (PUMA 00800); Bisbee, AZ (PUMA 00900); Midland, TX (PUMAs 03100, 03200); Odessa, TX (PUMA 03300); Dayton, OH (PUMA 04000)

Industries of Focus: Building Performance; Energy-Efficient Building, Construction, and Retrofit; Renewable Electric Power; Deconstruction and Materials Use

Highlighted Participants Served: Limited English Proficiency individuals, Native Americans, Ex-offenders

Amount: \$7,994,999

Key Partner Highlights: ICF Macro, Monster Worldwide, Southeastern Arizona Government Association, Central Arizona Association of Governments, Permian Basin Regional Planning Council, Miami Valley Regional Planning Council

Project Description: The grantee will implement a multi-faceted career path strategy that is designed to: 1) target recruitment in high-poverty rural and urban communities; 2) assist workers in becoming job ready through pre-employment programs in partnership with FBCOs, WIBs, and unions; 3) offer on-the-job training and transitional employment opportunities in weatherization and deconstruction; 4) advance workers through continuing education and certification programs; 5) provide training and certification for individuals pursuing advanced careers in deconstruction and renewable energy industries; and 6) duplicate program successes in other communities nationwide. As part of the program, the grantee will develop a DOL Registered Apprenticeship program in Green Building Performance and Heating, Venting and Air-Conditioning.

Proposed Outcomes: The grantee will develop customized training curricula in the designated career pathways and will train and place approximately 500 individuals in the building performance; energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofit; renewable electric power; and deconstruction and materials use industries.

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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, which fund both green job training and evaluation projects, is to teach workers the skills required in high growth and emerging industries, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Pathways Out of Poverty Grants Overview

For individuals who are living below or near the poverty level, the current economic downturn has created a unique set of challenges, and has heightened the need to find pathways out of poverty and into employment. These individuals may lack basic literacy and job readiness skills, and they may face other barriers to employment, such as the need for childcare or transportation.

To assist individuals in meeting these challenges, the Department is investing in Pathways Out of Poverty grants, which will integrate training and supportive services into cohesive programs that will help targeted populations find pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Despite the economic downturn, these green industries present many potential opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and competencies, gain employment, and advance along career pathways.

In order to most effectively serve the specific populations targeted by these grants, the Department of Labor encouraged applicants to focus project efforts in communities located within one or more contiguous Public Micro Data Areas (PUMAs) where poverty rates were 15% or higher. PUMAs are geographic areas designated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

These investments will prepare participants for employment within energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and are designed to:

- Include sound recruitment and referral strategies for targeted populations;
- Integrate basic skills and work-readiness training with occupational skills training, as necessary;
- Combine supportive services with training services to help participants overcome barriers to employment, as necessary; and,
- Provide training services at times and locations that are easily accessible to targeted populations.

Grantee Summaries

Thirty-eight (38) awards ranging from approximately \$1 million to \$8 million each were made to two categories of grantees: (1) national nonprofit organizations with networks of local affiliates; and (2) local public organizations or private non-profit organizations. In both categories, projects will be implemented at the community level by partnerships that include nonprofit organizations, the public workforce system, the education and training community, employers and industry-related organizations, and labor organizations.