



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



**Grantee:** Goodwill Industries International (GII)

**National or Local Grant:** National

**City, State (PUMAs Served):** Atlanta, GA (PUMA 01204); Austin, TX (PUMA 05301); Charlotte, NC (PUMA 0902); Grand Rapids, MI (PUMAs 02100, 01100, 01000); Phoenix, AZ (PUMA 00117); Washington, DC (PUMA 00103)

**Industries of Focus:** Energy Efficient Building Construction and Retrofit, and Renewable Energy

**Highlighted Participants Served:** People with disabilities, chronically-unemployed individuals, ex-offenders, older workers, homeless individuals, and high school dropouts

**Amount:** \$7,303,634

**Key Partner Highlights:** DeKalb Community College, Radiance Solar, IBEW, Transformation Network, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, Emerald Green Construction, Inc., Phoenix Workforce Connection

**Project Description:** Through this project, Goodwill Industries International will implement a national model within 6 communities to help the hardest to place job seekers secure employment in green industry-related fields. The model they will employ is divided into four phases designed to move job seekers from intensive individual assessment through to job placement, and includes career planning, transitional jobs, contextualized pre-employment training, and occupational skills training. Once placed, the workers will be supported by Goodwill and their local partners to help them retain their jobs and advance within their chosen industry along clear career pathways.

**Proposed Outcomes:** GII anticipates it will serve 1,300 individuals with 997 beginning training services in the targeted industries. Additionally, 571 programs completers will be placed in unsubsidized employment.

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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.