



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



Grantee: Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

National or Local Grant: National

City, State (PUMAs Served): Asheville, NC (PUMA 00202); Broward County, FL (PUMAs 03605, 03607); and Phoenix, AZ (PUMA 00117)

Industries of Focus: Energy-Efficient Building, Construction and Retrofit; Renewable Electric Power; and Biofuels

Highlighted Participants Served: Unemployed individuals, high school dropouts, individuals with a criminal record

Amount: \$4,900,000

Key Partner Highlights: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, Community Action Opportunities of Madison and Buncombe Counties, IBEW Locals 238 and 728, Asheville Minority Economic Development, Mountain Area BizWorks, Blue Ridge Biofuels, Mountain Area Job Link, Asheville-Buncombe Technical College, Buncombe County Department of Social Services, Arizona OIC, Phoenix Workforce Connection/One Stop Career Centers, Grand Canyon Minority Supplier Development Council, R 1 Solar Arizona with Southwest Green and Arizona State University, Gateway Community College, Southwest Building Science Training Center, OIC of Broward County, Broward Technical Center, Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, Advanced Green Technologies

Project Description: The grantee will lead three local project teams who will provide intake, assessment, and individual referrals for basic skill and vocational skill training, placement and job retention, and other supportive services. Five local providers will train individuals in six occupational areas including Weatherization Technician/Installer, advanced and entry-level Solar PV Systems Installer, LEED Green Associate, and Biofuels Collection and Rendering Technicians.

Proposed Outcomes: The grantee will train 1,350 individuals with 1,066 being placed into employment during the 24-month grant period.

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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.