

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

First and foremost, the Department of Labor wishes you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced \$99 million in green jobs grants, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grants will support job training and labor market information programs to help workers, many in underserved communities, find jobs in expanding green industries and related occupations.

The \$99 million roll-out today follows a similar roll-out of nearly \$50 million in green jobs grants in November of 2009. The selection of the awardees is based on Department of Labor's efforts to reach out to the underserved communities and communities of color asking them to apply for one of the green job grants during the RFP process. Based on our efforts we received three times the amount of grant applications than previous years. In addition, we revamped the review process and included community based organizations to assist in the grant application review process.

As a result, many of the grantees have specifically mentioned their intention to target underserved communities and a wide array of states that have been severely hit by the recession in their programs. Examples include – the SER Metro-Detroit, Jobs for Progress Inc. in Michigan targeting women, minorities and veterans will receive \$4,298,673. The Providence Plan in Rhode Island targeting ex-offenders, minorities and dislocated workers will be awarded \$3.72 million. The Ohio Electrical Labor Management Cooperative Committee targeting Auto Industry-Impacted Counties will be awarded \$4,826,073. And, the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition in South Florida targeting unemployed workers, veterans, women, ex-offenders and minorities will be awarded \$3,280,656.

I hope that you will take the time and review the list of grantees, many of whom are from your state/region and where feasible:

1. Encourage community organizations, especially from underserved communities in your area, to contact the organizations and ask to participate in the training opportunities available.
2. Share this information with other community leaders so they can be aware of the programs taking place in the community.

As your point person within the Department of Labor, I want to encourage you and your organizations to apply for grants. The RFP process for the green jobs grants this year has already closed, but I will alert you when other RFP processes begin.

In addition, if you would ever like to meet with staff at the Department of Labor, please feel free to reach out to me. If I know the nature of your request, I can work to make sure the right agency point person(s) are involved.

Lastly, if you have any media related questions please contact the media person listed on the press release.

Regards,

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