

Propelling Green Career Pathways into the Future

Investments in the green economy can revitalize old industries, create new industries and generate new jobs for our workforce.
- U.S. DOL Secretary Hilda L. Solis

Purpose: Provide multi-faceted career path strategies for those un- and underemployed in four regions through training, certification and apprenticeship programs in green industries.

Project Period: January 29, 2010 – January 28, 2012

Focus Industries: Building Performance; HVAC; Energy-Efficient Building, Construction and Retrofit; Renewable Electric Power (i.e. solar and wind energy); Deconstruction and Materials Reuse

Key National Partners: U.S. Department of Labor, National Association of Regional Councils, ICF Macro, Monster Worldwide, GreenCollarEdu.net

Key Regional Partners: Central Arizona Association of Governments (Apache Junction, AZ), Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (Dayton, Ohio), Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (Midland, Texas), SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (Bisbee, AZ)

Workforce Challenge

Our nation is facing the highest unemployment rate in decades, while also being confronted with environmental and energy challenges. Due to reductions in the automotive, construction, and oil-related industries, small and large metropolitan areas and rural regions are burdened with significant layoffs and chronic underemployment. Workforce training in these regions to prepare those un- and underemployed for new and expanded green occupations is a necessary component of the U.S. recovery and of an environmentally sustainable future.

Opportunity for Change

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), in partnership with ICF Macro and Monster Worldwide, is administering a Pathways Out of Poverty grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

NARC is working with four of its member regional councils in Texas, Arizona, and Ohio to serve as local demonstration sites with partnerships that include faith-based and community organizations, workforce agencies, community colleges, employers and unions. Working with these local partners, each regional council is targeting recruitment in high-poverty neighborhoods to prepare workers for career jobs in the green economy.

Benefits and Outcomes

Pathways will train and place 500 individuals in the building performance; energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit; renewable electric power (solar and wind); and deconstruction and materials reuse industries.

NARC and its partners will offer participants:

- Pre-employment training and retention support services;
- Skill development and employment in weatherization or deconstruction;
- Advancement in green career pathways through continuing education and on-the-job training;
- Industry standard professional development and certifications guided by a National Advisory Council; and
- Portable, nationally recognized DOL Apprenticeship credentials.

The logo for 'pathways' features the word in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized green leaf with three leaves is positioned above the letter 'y'. Below the text, there is a light blue, curved swoosh that underlines the word.

Regional planning organizations are critical players in helping to reduce unemployment in un- and underserved communities. We welcome the chance to work with the DOL to develop workforce training and job assistance partnerships in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other environmentally sustainable occupations.

- NARC President James Townsend, Judge/Executive, Webster County, KY

Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)

Located in Apache Junction, AZ, CAAG will provide training in basic construction and building performance as well solar energy to its unemployed population, which includes Native Americans, 50 percent of which are living below the poverty line. They will leverage the support from representatives of three Native American nations who sit on their Board of Directors to reach these job seekers. www.CAAGCentral.org



Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC)

MVRPC, located in Dayton, OH, will work with its community-based partners, who are already serving un- or underemployed populations in some of the region's most economically challenged communities, which includes a large ex-offender population. With 39 percent of their job seekers without a high-school diploma, their job training will be critical for the region. www.mvrpc.org



Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC)

PBRPC, located in Midland, TX, will build on its experience in workforce development and established partnerships to provide life skills and money management training for ex-offenders and other unemployed persons, allowing them to retain entry-level jobs while training for more skilled professions in building performance and wind energy. www.pbrpc.org



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)

SEAGO, located in Bisbee, AZ, will leverage its partnerships and expand its work assisting individuals within high poverty areas, particularly those in the construction and mining business, who have experienced significant job losses in recent years. These workers will train for jobs in weatherization, green buildings and solar energy. www.seago.org



The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

The National Association of Regional Councils serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning, development and environmental opportunities and issues. www.NARC.org/activities/development/green-jobs.html or www.GreenRegions.org



NARC
Building Regional Communities

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For more information, please contact:

National Association of Regional Councils
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009

Naomi Friedman, Project Director
202-986-1032, x224
naomi@narc.org

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