

Background:

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration has released a Solicitation for State Labor Market Improvement (LMI) Green Job Grants aimed at collecting, analyzing, and disseminating labor market information and developing a labor exchange infrastructure in support of “green jobs.” The grant proposals are due August 14, 2009 for a period of performance of up to 18 months and an award application amount of up to \$4 million. Along with this consortium grant, Washington will also be submitting a state-specific grant that is aimed at improving the dissemination and integration of green jobs intelligence throughout the labor exchange system to help place workers in green jobs. The consortium grant has two primary functions:

I. Assist in Transition from Best to Next Practices

This project will leverage existing practices in each state to determine the best practices as it relates to activities associated with the labor exchange process, labor market information, and the green economy. It will identify the best practices within the following:

- State Green Job Survey Collection
- State Green Job Definition
- Identification of Green Job Occupations
- Applications of Labor Market Information within Labor Exchange System
- Identification of Green Jobs In-Demand

The process for sharing best practices, which will create some “next practices” for consortium members and others, will be multi-dimensional. We intend to:

- Conduct two green jobs symposia for consortium member states LMI Directors, their partners, and staff.
- Install a *Wikispace* to share ideas, findings, what works, what doesn't, and encourage an active electronic conversation about green jobs labor market research and its application to one-stop process and the labor exchange.
- Share information between member state LMI shops via monthly conference calls.
- Determine the degree to which job seekers and business customers believe the member state green jobs recruitment, training and labor market information is effective through a consortium-wide customer satisfaction survey of sufficient statistical power.
- Determine the net impacts of various green jobs job search assistance activities through evaluation studies, as possible.

II. Identification of Green Skills Research

The consortium proposes to “drill down” from the member states’ green jobs surveys to develop detailed statewide and sub-state workforce information relevant to the intersection of green jobs and the workforce system. Though each of the state green jobs surveys is based on a slightly

different definition of green jobs, there is a substantial overlap and the general results are quite consistent.

The green jobs research described herein will build on the findings of the existing state-level green job research studies to drill down to specific occupational and industry characteristics. These in-depth green job research studies are needed to identify specific skills, career pathways, and job lattices within energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental protection sectors that together comprise the green economy. The research described in this proposal will explore:

- Identification of skill differentials between green and other similarly functioning jobs.
- Identification of green job ladders.
- Refined identification of occupations in demand.
- Review of data collection and activities.
- Identification of information gaps.
- More regional workforce system coordination of member consortium states green labor market information.
- Refine methods to determine skills and occupations in demand.
- Definition of both jobs and skills, specific to an energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce.