

Washington Energy Sector Partnership Grant

Summary

PROJECT TITLE: Washington's Energy Sector Partnership Grant Application: Energy Efficiency Training for Washington's Green Economy

FUNDING LEVEL: \$5,973,635

AREAS TO BE SERVED: Spokane, King and Snohomish counties as well as statewide access through numerous building and construction trades organizations (Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees).

SYNOPSIS OF PLAN: The Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board will fund three Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to provide training for targeted populations in high demand professional-technical occupations needed for energy efficiency in commercial and public buildings. Those WDCs (Spokane Area, Snohomish, Seattle-King) will each contract with a single entity, Build It Smart, a labor-management non-profit organization, to facilitate training of un/underemployed building and construction trades journey workers for in-demand green and energy efficiency skills. Build It Smart partners will also embed training for fourth- and fifth-year apprentices, thus serving all levels of skilled workers affected by the economic impact on the construction trades. With the help of the participating WDCs, six community and technical colleges will recruit participants to enroll in energy efficiency courses of training.

TARGETED INDUSTRIES: With 70 percent of the total jobs in the energy efficiency sector, the construction industry is critical to a green economy. Our Employment Security Department reports that of the top ten green occupations, half were occupations of the building trades: electricians, construction laborers, plumbers and pipefitters, carpenters, and HVAC installers. Over 90 percent of building equipment specialty trade/subcontractor employment in Washington is engaged either in electrical wiring or plumbing/heating/cooling systems, industries in which energy technology is changing rapidly. Additionally, demand for green building and retrofit for the commercial sector is growing rapidly. Beyond the construction skills required, these buildings require skilled building commissioning agents and managers, which are also targeted in this work.

WORKFORCE AND INDUSTRY NEEDS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED: In its updated report of May 2009, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Task Force found green skills particularly needed among: building inspectors, cement masons and concrete finishers, construction equipment operators, construction laborers, construction managers, electricians, hazardous materials removers, HVAC installers, insulation workers, plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters, roofers, carpenters and sheet metal workers. This affects all green and energy-related growth, as future growth in renewable industries also depends on the design, building, operation and maintenance of energy plants and equipment.

PROPOSED TRAINING ACTIVITIES

According to the successful grant application, the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDCSKC) will contract with South Seattle Community College to provide instruction for 40 participants in commercial auditor certificate training and to develop and deliver building sustainability manager and building commissioning agent certificate programs for 60 participants. The WDCSKC will contract with Renton Technical College for curriculum development, embedding I-BEST into building engineer certificate degree

Washington Energy Sector Partnership Grant

programs and supporting 30 participants. The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council will expand instruction in building operator certification for 40 participants. And the WDCSKC will contract with Build It Smart for journey worker and senior apprentice training in 14 western Washington counties and with those programs that serve the entire state.

According to the successful grant application, the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County (WDCSC) will contract with Master Builder Career Connection to provide introductory courses preparatory for the community college offerings, including healthy home training for building professionals, siding and weatherization and super energy efficient green and sustainable building certificate programs. Cascadia Community College will provide instruction for 48 participants in energy management specialist certificates and environmental technologies and sustainable practices associate in applied science degrees, credits for which are fully transferrable to Washington State University. Edmonds Community College will support 48 participants in courses available in energy efficiency technician, energy core, residential energy auditor, commercial light auditor and energy accounting specialist certificate programs and an energy analyst degree program. Everett Community College will instruct in photovoltaic installation and design, as a module or certificate, and building energy automation/energy management licenses for 84 participants. Build It Smart will implement green training programs for the building and construction trades in five northwestern Washington counties, prioritizing Snohomish County. Build It Smart will provide programs to provide training for journey level workers and to add certificated green skills training to area building trade apprenticeship programs.

According to the successful grant application, the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council will contract with Spokane Community Colleges to train 64 participants in the residential auditor certificate program, providing full tuition and BPI testing fees; 48 in an energy efficiency certificate program; and 64 through training in deconstruction and weatherization (leading to certificates). Build It Smart will implement green training programs for building trade journey workers and apprentices for 20 eastern Washington counties.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS TO BE SERVED: This grant has targeted these populations:

- (A) Individuals employed in the construction industry who have become dislocated due to national energy and environmental policy and/or the current economic downturn. Workers impacted by dislocation and changes in the residential and commercial building sectors will find improved employment opportunities once certified in green skills.
- (B) Individuals currently employed in the industry but at risk of losing their jobs unless they receive updated training in energy efficiency and who are seeking to enhance their marketability and value in the energy efficiency sector.
- (C) Individuals seeking employment pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency will be prioritized, including at-risk youth, low-income adults, and people with disabilities.

Within each of these target populations, veterans, including past and present members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, will receive priority for service. Targeted services

Washington Energy Sector Partnership Grant

for veterans will be a particular commitment from the building trades, which provide funding for a Helmets to Hardhats liaison, as well as supporting the Veterans Conservation Corps, VIP (Veterans in Piping) and VICE (Veterans in Construction-Electrical).

Many individuals in target population (A) have highly transferrable personal effectiveness, academic, workplace, and industry-wide technical competencies but lack industry-sector technical competencies for green building. They also need to return to employment as quickly as possible following an analysis of skills and credit for past learning and receive short-term training leading to “stackable” industry-recognized certificates that enhance employability.

Individuals in target population (B) will also require compressed educational offerings delivered through flexible options such as distance and hybrid learning that allow for the acquisition of industry-sector technical competencies for green building while employed full-time.

Many individuals in target population (C) will require and will receive: career planning support, support for longer-term educational persistence, and support developing personal effectiveness, academic, workplace, and industry-wide technical competencies once in school. With the help of regional Navigators, these individuals will have access to a wide range of training retention services.

PROJECTED TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OUTCOMES:

PARTICIPANTS SERVED			
Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County	Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County	Spokane Area Workforce Development Council	Statewide Build It Smart Project
200	240	192	4,814
Total of all participants served: 5,446			
Over 4,700 are projected to be placed in employment after training			

The combined outcomes above reflect participant outcome figures provided by the three WDCs and a statewide total from Build It Smart. The WDCs will manage the Build It Smart contracts cooperatively and collectively, using SKIES to record the location of trainees to support regional evaluation.