

The Green Jobs Act of 2007

Title X of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140)

The Green Jobs Act (GJA), Title X of the Energy Independence and Security Act, authorized at \$125 million per year in grants for an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program as an amendment to the Workforce Investment Act. It targets a broad range of populations for eligibility—including workers impacted by national energy policy, veterans, the unemployed, low-income individuals (including at-risk youth), and ex-offenders—and a host of energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, including energy efficient building, construction and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, biofuels, and manufacturing that produces sustainable products and uses sustainable processes and materials. The program will be administered by the Department of Labor (DOL) in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), and includes both national and state-level components.

Three Types of Grants in the Green Jobs Act

National Energy Training Partnership Grants

DOL will award competitive grants to non-profit partnerships to carry out training that leads to economic self-sufficiency and to develop an energy efficiency and renewable energy industries workforce. The partnerships must include the equal participation of industry and labor, and may include related stakeholders like local workforce investments boards, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. 30 percent of the amount appropriated will be dedicated to these grants (\$37.5 million if fully funded).

State Energy Training Partnership Grants

DOL will award competitive grants to states to enable them to administer, via the state agency that administers their employment service and UI programs, renewable energy and energy efficiency workforce development programs. It will award grants to partnerships that essentially mirror the national partnerships in their make-up. Priority will be given to states that demonstrate that their activities meet state and national policies associated with energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction of emissions. 30 percent of the amount appropriated will be dedicated to this program (\$37.5 million if fully funded).

Pathways Out Of Poverty Demonstration Grants

DOL will award competitive grants to training partnerships that serve individuals under 200% of poverty or a locally defined self-sufficiency standard.¹ The partnerships must include community-based organizations, educational institutions, industry, and labor; demonstrate experience implementing training programs and recruit and support participants to the successful completion of training; and coordinate activities with the WIA system. In awarding grants priority will be given to partnerships that target low-income adults and youth and plan to implement various strategies that enable access to, and successful completion of, training, including ensuring that supportive services are delivered by organizations with direct access to and experience with targeted populations. 20 percent of the amount appropriated will be dedicated to this demonstration (\$25 million if fully funded).



Funding for National and State Labor Market Research

National Research Program

DOL, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, will collect and analyze the labor market data necessary to track workforce trends in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and provide technical assistance and capacity building to partnerships. Ten percent of the amount appropriated will be dedicated to this program (\$12.5 million if fully funded).

State Labor Market Research, Information, and Labor Exchange Research Program

DOL will award competitive grant to states to administer labor market and labor exchange information programs, in coordination with the one-stop delivery system. Activities will also include the identification of job openings; the administration of skill and aptitude testing; and counseling, case management, and job referrals. These programs will be administered by the state agency that administers the employment service and unemployment insurance (UI) programs and services can only be delivered by state merit staff. Ten percent of the amount appropriated will be dedicated to this program (\$12.5 million if fully funded).

The national and state partnership grant programs, and the pathways out of poverty demonstration grants, all give priority to applicants (whether the state or partnerships) that can leverage additional public and private resources. For this reason, state and local governments and private-sector stakeholders that have already invested in their own green jobs initiatives will be in a more competitive position to be awarded GJA grants.

It's important to note that while funds were authorized for the GJA, they were not appropriated, so full funding will have to be secured in the next appropriations cycle. However, the legislation does require that DOL, in consultation with DOE, establish the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program no later than six months after the date of enactment, which falls in May of 2008. It remains unclear how DOL will respond to this requirement. Because the GJA is amended to WIA's Section 171 for Demonstrations, Pilots, and Research, DOL could draw on funds from this budget line, which in the 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Omnibus Appropriations bill was funded at \$48.5 million. Although much of that money is already committed to earmarks, DOL could presumably allocate some of the funds toward preliminary grant-making for the GJA. Alternatively, DOL could focus on creating a regulatory framework and developing a bare bones program in anticipation of dedicated funding in the future.

ⁱ There appears to have been a drafting error in preparation of the final bill, such that this targeting now refers to "...families with income of less than 200 percent of the sufficiency standard."

