



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 9, 2009
To: Kate Gordon
From: Amelia Klawon, Elena Foshay
RE: Green Jobs Act of 2007

What is the Green Jobs Act of 2007?

The Green Jobs Act was passed as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The Green Jobs Act amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) to authorize **\$125 million** per year in new workforce funds for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program. This pilot program will identify needed skills, develop training programs and train workers for jobs in a range of industries, including energy efficient building, construction and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, biofuels, and manufacturing of sustainable products or use of sustainable processes and materials. The program specifically targets workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy, individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, veterans, unemployed individuals, at-risk youth, and formerly incarcerated nonviolent offenders. The program has a specific focus on developing “pathways out of poverty” and into economic self-sufficiency

The Apollo Alliance was instrumental in developing and passing the Green Jobs Act. National Apollo staff members developed the initial idea, and wrote the first draft of the bill. Apollo staff and partners, including the AFL-CIO, industry associations, and other advocacy organizations, helped draft the final bill language. They also worked to build an alliance of support in the Senate, while the Ella Baker Center, convener of the Oakland Apollo Alliance, along with the Workforce Alliance, built support in the House. The passage of the Green Jobs Act was a great victory for Apollo.

Who will administer Green Jobs Act programs?

It will be administered in by the Department of Labor in conjunction with the Department of Energy.

What will the Green Jobs Act support?

Grants for national and state training programs through the following programs that prepare workers for a full range of green collar jobs in clean energy economy:

- **National Research Program** (10% or **\$12.5 million**) – Allow the DOL, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to collect and analyze the necessary labor market data to track workforce trends and identify needed skills and occupational trends. Information will help DOL provide technical assistance and capacity building to training programs.
- **National Energy Training Partnership Grants** (30% or **\$37.5 million**) – Offer competitive grants through the DOL to multi-stakeholder workforce training partnerships with equal labor and industry

participation to provide job training for positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

- **State Labor Market Research, Information and Labor Exchange Research Program (10% or \$12.5 million)** – Offer competitive grants through the DOL to states for labor market and labor exchange information programs in coordination with the one-stop delivery system.
- **State Energy Training Partnership Program (30% or \$37.5 million)** – Offer competitive grants through the DOL to states for multi-stakeholder renewable energy and energy efficiency workforce training programs.
- **Pathways Out Of Poverty Demonstration Program (20% or \$25 million)** – Offer competitive grants through the DOL to training partnerships that serve low-income individuals.

Who could apply for Green Jobs Act funds?

The Green Jobs Act specifies that funding priority focus on workforce training entities that:

- Involve multi-stakeholder partnerships that include non-profit organizations, employers, labor, apprenticeship programs, educational institutions, and workforce development representatives.
- Target individuals in underserved sectors of workforce
- Have direct access to and experience with targeted populations
- Have experience in implementing workforce training and education programs
- Offer supportive services, education and training
- Link adult remedial education with occupational skills training
- Offer flexible and convenient schedule and location options
- Involve employers and labor organizations in determining skill needs and approving credentials
- Have experience administering government grant funds
- Leverage additional public and private resources, including in-kind matches from participating employers

Existing programs that could benefit if the Green Jobs act were fully funded:

- **Oakland Green Jobs Corps** – The Oakland Green Jobs Corps trains young adults with barriers to employment in skills that will lead to green-collar jobs in construction, solar installation, and energy efficiency retrofits. The program includes job training, support, hands-on work experience, and offers a state-approved environmental engineering technician's certificates. The Oakland Green Jobs Corps was developed and proposed by the Oakland Apollo Alliance, a local partnership of business, labor, community groups, and workforce development programs. The group won support from the Oakland City Council, who allocated \$250,000 in seed money to create the program. Funds were awarded to a partnership between Laney Community College, Cypress Mandela Training Center, and Growth Sector, a workforce intermediary. The project will be overseen by the California Education Development Department, and is currently training the first class of 40 students.
- **The Los Angeles Green Careers Training Initiative** – The Los Angeles Apollo Alliance has developed the Green Careers Training Initiative in conjunction with the city Green Retrofits program. The Green Retrofits Program represents a commitment by the city to install energy efficiency upgrades in most city buildings, particularly those in low-income neighborhoods. The Green Careers Training Initiative (GCTI) seeks to create green career ladders in construction, the public sector, public and private power companies and emerging energy industries. The GCTI will (1) connect low-income inner-city residents to union apprenticeship and community college training programs that prepare them for living wage jobs and (2) provide upgrade training to existing workers within those industries. Elements of the program include high school career technical education, a pre-apprenticeship program, articulation with relevant

community college programs, and career counseling and mentoring. The program will begin with 60 training slots in 2008.

- **PlaNYC** - As a set of 127 legislative priorities, PlaNYC seeks to tackle the effects of climate change and improve New York's urban environment, in order to support sustainable long-term growth and economic development. The New York City Apollo Alliance and Urban Agenda have been active in efforts to grow green-collar jobs linked to PlaNYC's initiatives. Working in partnership with labor unions, environmentalists, businesses, educators, and community organizations, the New York Apollo Alliance has studied the workforce needs and opportunities of PlaNYC's energy efficiency programs. They have also hosted a series of Green Collar Jobs Roundtables, which have led to the formation of working groups tasked with charting a coordinated green workforce development roadmap. Working groups will assess the current environment and identify green jobs training opportunities, develop strategies for linking target populations to training, coordinate with employers, establish labor standards to ensure job quality, and build partnerships to achieve the roadmap agenda.
- **Richmond BUILD** - Established in 2007, the Richmond BUILD program was originally created as a career and labor force development program and a violence deterrent. It has become a program which links together the ability to have a positive environmental impact with the economic opportunity to gain basic construction skills. Richmond BUILD is open to Richmond, California residents who have a high school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, can read and speak English, can pass a basic skills test, and can pass a drug test. The 10-week pre-apprenticeship program teaches a wide range of construction skills including framing, roofing, scaffolding, plumbing and welding, with an emphasis on solar installation. Due to its extensive partner network, the program is offered at no charge to the participants.

The solar portion of the curriculum includes a partnership with Solar Richmond, a local non-profit organization. Solar Richmond provides low-cost solar panels which Richmond BUILD participants install free to low-income homeowners. As of December 2007, a total of 32 Richmond residents had completed the training program. At that time, all of them had received interviews within a few weeks of graduation, and all but five of them had been hired by local solar and construction firms. The program has a 91% placement rate and an 85% retention rate, with an average starting wage of \$18.33.
- **Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative** – The Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative is an expanded collaboration and training program that forms part of the Chicago Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan is expected to create 5,000 to 10,000 new jobs, and the Green Jobs Initiative conducts research on the needs of local green businesses, coordinates green workforce development efforts, and works ensure equitable access to green jobs. Greencorps Chicago is a city job training program that now forms part of Green Collar Jobs Initiative. Greencorps provides nine months of paid training in landscaping, environmental health and safety, and electronics recycling. Over its 15-year history, Greencorps has provided hands-on training and support to people with barriers to employment. The current class of 50 trainees just began their training.