

Friends and Colleagues:

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced yesterday nearly \$55 million in green jobs grants, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grants will support job training and labor market information programs to help workers, many in underserved communities, find jobs in expanding green industries and related occupations.

Secretary Solis is committed to making sure that the Departments of Labor's grants are reaching the communities that need them most. In that regard, the Secretary has instructed agencies to make sure that DOL grants are reaching out to:

- Underserved communities
- Women, particularly women in non-traditional careers
- American Indians
- Communities of Color

The selection of the awardees is based on the Department of Labor's commitment to these communities, asking them to apply for one of the green job grants during the RFP process. Based on our efforts we received three times the amount of grant applications than previous years. In addition, we revamped the review process and included community based organizations to assist in the grant application review process. This is an ongoing process and we will announce the additional list of green job grantees once the list has been finalized.

I hope that you will take the time and review the list of grantees, many of whom are from your state/region and where feasible:

1. Encourage people from your community to contact the organizations and ask to participate in the training opportunities available.
2. Share this information with other community leaders so they can be aware of the programs taking place in the community.

The Secretary wants to encourage you and your organizations to apply for grants. The RFP process for the green jobs grants has already closed, but we will alert you when other RFP processes begin.

In addition, if you would ever like to meet with staff at the Department of Labor, please feel free to reach out to me. If I know the nature of your request, I can work to make sure the right agency point person(s) are involved.

Regards,

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