

**Idaho Department of Labor
State Labor Market Information Improvement Grant Application
(SGA/DFA PY 08-17)
Abstract**

The Idaho Department of Labor is the state government agency responsible for Labor Market Information and is applying for a single-state, \$1.25 million U.S. Department of Labor grant for its State Labor Market Information Improvement project. This project - to be completed by Spring 2011 - will benefit Idaho's statewide labor force of more than 700,000 by fostering creation and expansion of green jobs, where average paychecks are more than 50 percent higher than the state's average wage. This grant and the department's efforts will also lay the foundation on which Idaho will meet its goal of providing 25 percent of its energy needs through renewable resources by 2025. Detailed baseline data on energy efficiency and renewable resource businesses and jobs will be generated from a comprehensive green jobs survey with a robust skills component and a jobs vacancy survey to measure skills and occupational gaps, supplementing traditional supply and demand data. For the first time, educational institutions will be surveyed for data on educational offerings that result in green certifications, licenses and skills. Green jobs and industry projections based on the green jobs survey will be made to develop concentration ratios for each occupation. Researchers will have a taxonomical tool to identify which jobs and industries are indeed green and measure occupational skills gaps and surpluses over time. This research will serve as the foundation for an aggressive public education and outreach program to inform Idahoans about the career potential these industries hold, including the flagging of appropriate renewable energy, energy efficiency and green job-related occupations, industries, careers, job listings, résumés and portfolios and will permit targeted skill and training gaps to be measured as Idaho's economy grows. While the department's Communications and Research team will lead this project with assistance from the Idaho Career Information System, this research effort will involve educators, industry and labor leaders, career professionals and public policy makers, who will provide a user perspective, ensuring the right questions are asked and answered and that the data and deliverables meet their information needs.