ABSTRACT

Applicant Name   Commonwealth of Kentucky—Office of Employment and
                    Training (OET)
Project Title   Greening the Bluegrass State
Area to be Served   Statewide
Funding Requested $1,250,000

Kentucky's Office of Employment and Training (OET) serves as the lead agency in this project to connect target populations to career pathways in green industries. The target populations include auto and auto-related industry workers affected by significant automotive-related restructurings, other manufacturing workers, and energy sector employees. This project implements research and training programs that will help prepare individuals for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as contribute to the overall understanding of green industries and occupations.

As the foundation of this project, OET will coordinate the collection and analysis of labor market data to assess economic activity in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and identify occupations within those industries. OET will collect information regarding green job duties such as those related to reducing energy usage, lowering carbon emissions, and protecting Kentucky's natural resources. As a complement to the collection and analysis of industry data, this survey will include a vacancy survey to determine existing and future job opportunities. This will provide a detailed assessment of occupations with green job duties and assist the workforce system in devising strategies for ensuring adequate training for this emerging sector. Other data elements collected will be length of the vacancy, full-time/part-time status, and wages offered. This survey will cover 107,000 employers with a probability sample and will be valid for each of the 10 workforce areas. The initial scope of these efforts will focus on previously identified green industries: transportation; green construction; environmental protection; sustainable agriculture; forestry; and recycling and waste reduction. In addition, OET anticipates that the data collection will identify emerging green occupations across a number of industries.

OET will develop a labor supply database to provide detailed data on existing labor supply/job seekers from EKOS; estimate skills need using data from e3, green survey, and WIDb; and facilitate the transition of the target populations into new careers by providing a transferrable skills analysis tool that provides transitioning jobseekers with alternate career pathways. This tool will analyze occupations at the skills level, providing jobseekers with career transition information based on the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities of a large sampling of occupations. This tool will also enhance the capabilities of the existing skills database allowing a faster response time from labor market statistics to handle data requests concerning reemployment for the workforce regions. Kentucky's job bank (www.e3.ky.gov) was developed to emphasize the symbiotic relationship between education, employment, and economic development. This resource will be greatly enhanced to highlight green jobs as well as the courses and programs leading to certificates, degrees, skills and competencies required in the jobs.