ABSTRACT

New Mexico Labor Market Information Improvement Grant:
Linking Green Job Portals to Opportunity

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) is requesting an individual State Labor Market Improvement Grant, in the amount of approximately $1,050,000, to offer critically needed job information to laid-off workers by defining the workforce dimensions of the state's emerging green economy. The grant will provide the resources needed to frame and answer questions about green employers, demand for new skill sets, emerging green occupations, and educational and training opportunities available across the state. NMDWS recognizes the immediate needs for data and analysis of the workforce continuum in the four key sectors of Renewable Energy; Green Clean Manufacturing; Energy Efficiency; and Research, Development, and Administration.

In order to gain a better picture of green-related workforce needs within the four key sectors, an employer baseline and follow-up survey will be conducted by The Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University (AHC). NMDWS' Economic Research & Analysis Bureau (ER&A) will provide direction and oversight of the surveys, analysis, and report writing. ER&A will conduct a thorough educational inventory with the assistance of the New Mexico Public Education and Higher Education Departments. Ultimately, survey results and data will be widely disseminated to job seekers, educational institutions, business communities, and state agencies, but beyond this informational function, the results will provide for a foundation to help guide the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training Grant efforts. The grant's final deliverable report will contain an impact analysis, a skills gap analysis, an educational inventory, and industry and occupational projections for the workforce regions of the state.

One of the other core deliverables will be deployment of "Green Recovery Workstations," where job seekers at the various community locations will be able to access the new software and online services resulting from the grant research. Specifically, job seekers will be able to create and access inventories of current skills and match those skills to green occupations where their skills are transferable, and will be able explore green educational opportunities at institutions throughout the state. Additionally, ER&A will tailor all dissemination activities to target various stakeholders and customers, such as job seekers, education institutions, state agencies, and businesses, and will widely disseminate green jobs and green workforce information via brochures, posters, presentations, and flyers.

All the data collection and dissemination activities outlined in this proposal will provide essential information to help stimulate the growth of New Mexico's new green economy and help fill the job market void left by recent business contractions and closures. NMDWS will gain information and insight about the impact of the new green emerging industries and will have the resources to better connect the state's workforce to green job information.