

State Labor Market Information Improvement Grant

Study of the Presence and Future of Green Jobs in Alabama: Preparing Alabama's Workforce for an Expanding Green Industry

ABSTRACT

The State of Alabama, Department of Industrial Relations is applying for the SGA/DFA PY-08-17 State Labor Market Improvement Grant, which originates from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The request for a grant allocation of \$1,145,210 will allow the Labor Market Information Division, along with multiple state partners, to provide information on the current state of employment in the areas of energy efficiency & renewable industries. This information will lead to identification of specialized skills specific to green jobs, which will be studied for methods to transfer current unemployed workers or workers in dying industries to new and expanding green industries that will provide sustainable employment and a better quality of life. The results of this analysis will also allow for dissemination of information to existing industries to help them evolve into this new environment of green products and services.

The objective of this project is to support and facilitate workforce and economic development in Alabama that will prepare workers for expanding green industries at the local/regional and state levels. The main goal is to help reduce unemployment and poverty and raise personal income in the state. We conservatively estimate that this project will help to sustain and raise the incomes of about 50,000 Alabama workers by an average of \$2 per hour or \$4,000 a year, which translates into a \$200 million increase in Alabama's total personal income annually. This in turn would generate about \$14.2 million a year in state and local income and sales taxes; \$10 million to the state and \$4.2 million to local tax jurisdictions. In addition, thousands of entry-level jobs will become available for the unemployed as incumbent workers fill higher-wage, higher-skill green industry jobs.

Through collaboration with state partners in industry, economic development, education, non-profit organizations, The Governor's Office of Workforce Development, The State Workforce Investment Board, & many more, information will be delivered in a manner that meets the needs of various stakeholders and job seekers in the state and the ten workforce development planning regions. Job seekers will also gain access to an online green jobs system, which will post openings indicating green jobs and list skills needed for these jobs and allow the state to track ongoing activity in rise of green industry in the state.