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# CITY OF OAKLAND



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Office of the City Administrator  
Dan Lindheim  
City Administrator

(510) 238-3301

September 22, 2009

Oakland City Council  
Oakland, California

President Brunner and Members of the City Council:

**RE: Report and Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator, On Behalf of the City of Oakland, to Apply For, Accept and Appropriate Grant Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Federal Government's "Stimulus Package") for Up to \$4 Million from the U.S. Department of Labor's Pathways Out of Poverty Grant for the Purpose of Preparing Workers for Careers in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Industries**

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## SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator, on behalf of the City of Oakland, to apply for a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Pathways Out of Poverty program (Pathways) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Pathways grant project period would be for two years and for the purpose of preparing workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, with a focus on serving individuals who are at least 18 years of age and fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Unemployed individuals,
- High school drop-outs,
- Individuals with a criminal record, and
- Disadvantaged individuals within areas of high poverty.

The City can apply for up to \$4 million. The grant application is due on September 29, 2009.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The grant application request is for up to \$4 million. The grant guidelines do not require matching funds.

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## KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

### A. Grant Overview & Guidelines

**Purpose:** Pathways Out of Poverty Grant funds are intended to integrate training and supportive services into cohesive programs that will help target populations find pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

**Funding Available:** The Pathways Out of Poverty Grants contains approximately \$150 million in grant funds authorized by the ARRA.

**Eligible Applicants:** Two types of applicants will be funded through this solicitation: 1) national nonprofit entities with networks of local affiliates, coalition members or other established partners, and 2) local entities. Local entities must serve a “single community” which is specifically defined in the grant guidelines. Projects in each community served must be implemented by a strategic partnership that includes, at a minimum: nonprofit organizations, such as community and faith-based organizations; the public workforce investment system; the education and training community; labor organizations; and employers and industry-related organizations. All applicants must have experience serving target populations. Populations eligible to receive services include unemployed individuals, high school dropouts, individuals with a criminal record and disadvantaged individuals within areas of high poverty. As part of the technical review process, points will be awarded for applications that demonstrate that the proposed project serves areas of high poverty. Proposals should 1) include sound recruitment and referral strategies for targeted populations; (2) integrate basic skills and work-readiness training with occupational skills training, as necessary; (3) combine supportive services with training services to help participants overcome barriers to employment, as necessary; and (4) provide training services at times and locations that are easily accessible to targeted populations.

**Grant Amounts:** ETA intends to fund grants ranging from approximately \$3 to \$8 million for national grantees, and grants ranging from approximately \$2 to \$4 million for local grantees.

**Deadline:** The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is September 29, 2009. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. (Eastern Time).

**Green Industries and Occupations:** Grantees will implement research and training programs that will help prepare individuals for careers in any of the seven energy efficiency and renewable energy industries defined in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the WIA, which include: the energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofit industries; the renewable electric power industry; the energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; the biofuels industry; the deconstruction and materials use industries; the energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials. Applicants may propose

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training strategies for the following industries: Transportation, green construction, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture (including healthy food production), forestry, and recycling and waste reduction.

Section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 595, defines “renewable energy” as “electric energy generated from solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or additions of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project.” “Energy efficiency” can be broadly defined as programs aimed at mitigating the use of energy, reducing harmful emissions, and decreasing overall energy consumption.

**Working with Other Recovery Act Programs:** The Department of Labor (DOL) is partnering with other federal agencies to support the creation of jobs by developing a pipeline of skilled workers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Where possible, ETA encourages applicants to connect their workforce development strategies to other Recovery Act funded projects that create jobs or impact the skill requirements of existing jobs. ETA recommends that applicants review other parts of the Recovery Act, with a focus on the activities funded through the Department of Energy (Energy), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Education (Education) and others.

### C. Status

The City plans to submit an application requesting up to \$4 million to provide training, support, academic literacy, and placement services to residents residing in targeted low-income neighborhoods in West and East Oakland, with a focus on the following populations:

- Disenfranchised and “at risk” youth;
- Formerly incarcerated residents; and
- Truck drivers dislocated from the Port of Oakland

The Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) will provide grant and fiscal administration for the Pathways grant, which supports the City objective to better align workforce and economic development efforts. City leadership on this grant also strengthens CEDA’s capacity to integrate workforce and economic development efforts for the City.

As part of the City’s Interdepartmental Planning Committee on the stimulus efforts, Mayor Dellums asked that Oakland workforce development stakeholders be convened to coordinate citywide planning and application efforts. Many organizations that are currently providing workforce development training on the areas specified by the grant guidelines have expressed interest in working with the City on the Pathways application, including the following:

- Allen Temple Economic Development Corp.
- Alliance for West Oakland Development
- Civic Corps
- Cypress Mandela Training Center
- English Center
- Growth Sector
- Laney Community College
- Men of Valor
- Oakland Private Industry Council (PIC)
- Oakland Unified School District Adult Education
- Oakland Workforce Development Collaborative
- Regional Technical Training Center
- See Green
- Spanish Speaking Citizen's Foundation
- Spanish Speaking Unity Council
- Youth Employment Partnership

Staff is also in discussion with Urban Strategies Council regarding the inclusion of Oakland Community Land Trust properties, funded through the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, for energy retrofit training and employment purposes. Other groups that have recently approached the City about the Pathways grant include Catholic Charities of the East Bay and United Indian Nations. Staff is in communication with these groups to determine a fit with grant guidelines and program objectives.

Services to be provided would include the following aspects of a green careers pathway pursuant to Workforce Investment Act requirements:

- Outreach, recruitment, enrollment, and assessment.
- Contextualized green literacy and English as a Second Language training for residents who need it.
- Pre-bridge training including basic skills (English, reading, math), social support, basic science, certification in Building Performance Institute, and intensive in-class case management. Classroom training stipends are anticipated to be provided.
- Technical training provided in collaboration with Laney College that will result in a certification in home performance or solar installation.
- On the job training placements with public or private sector employers.

The Pathways grant provides resources to support academic literacy skills development to bring trainees up to 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade standards, which facilitates future employment opportunities.

Pursuant to grant guidelines specifying targeted industries and currently available employment placement opportunities, staff is targeting the following industries for training and placement purposes:

- Green construction
- Weatherization
- Solar installment
- Green deconstruction
- Transportation infrastructure (welding and engineering/construction management internships)

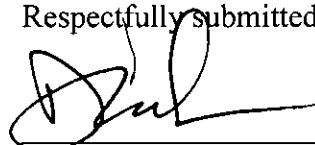
Building upon past partnerships and work, including the Ella Baker Center's Green Employer Council and the Oakland Partnership's Green Technology working group, staff and other partners are meeting with green industry private sector and nonprofit employers to secure placement commitments for project trainees. As part of this effort, staff will also identify barriers to employment that can be addressed through grant resources, involvement in training curriculum design, and other issues that would facilitate job placement. In addition, staff is in discussion with public agency partners that are engaged in energy retrofit and other green sector employment to secure commitments to place trainees from this project, including the Oakland Housing Authority and the Port of Oakland.

While the grant budget is still under development, a preliminary cost allocation is \$10,000 per person served, which would enable this grant to potentially provide training opportunities for 400 residents. More information will be provided at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to approve the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to apply for the Pathways Out of Poverty grant.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Lindheim  
City Administrator

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Approved as to Form and Legality

  
Oakland City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "STIMULUS PACKAGE") FOR UP TO \$4 MILLION FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY GRANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING WORKERS FOR CAREERS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRIES**

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the U.S. Government will award grant funds in the amount of approximately \$787 million dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Federal Government's "Stimulus Package") to state and local governments to stimulate the economy by creating and preserving jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland may be eligible to receive a portion of the grants funds; and

**WHEREAS**, due the urgent economic conditions, the federal government is releasing information on an ongoing basis regarding application deadlines and the criteria for funding and the types of programs, projects that will qualify for the funding and the Mayor, City Administrator and the City Council wish to be in the best posture (1) to be apprised of and updated regarding developments regarding the Stimulus Package and the City's options and (2) to prepare and complete and revise as necessary timely grant applications and (3) to obtain the maximum amount of grant funds for which the City of Oakland may be eligible; and

**WHEREAS**, the City learned that funds are available from the U.S. Department Of Labor's (DOL) Pathways Out of Poverty program and the City wishes to apply for a grant from the Stimulus Package for said purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has learned that the deadline for the application is September 29, 2009 to DOL, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or his designee to apply for, accept and appropriate up to \$4,000,000 in grant funds from the American Recovery and Investment Act of

2009 (Federal "Stimulus Package") in order to provide the following services to approximately 400 residents who are part of the grant's target populations, which are 1) disadvantaged and "at risk" youth; 2) formerly incarcerated residents; and 3) dislocated Port of Oakland truck drivers:

- Outreach, recruitment, enrollment, and assessment;
- Contextualized green literacy and English as a Second Language training for residents who need it;
- Pre-bridge training including basic skills (English, reading, math), social support, basic science, certification in Building Performance Institute and intensive in-class case management, with classroom training stipends anticipated to be provided;
- Technical training provided in collaboration with Laney College that will result in a certification in home performance or solar installation; and
- On the job training placements with public or private sector employers; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator to conduct negotiations, execute documents, and take any other action with respect to the grant and projects consistent with this Resolution and its basic purpose; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that prior to execution, all contracts and agreements shall be reviewed and approved for form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and a final copy shall be placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL,  
QUAN, REID AND PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES -  
ABSENT -  
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California