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Recovery Act Update

May 21, 2009

Senator Sherrod Brown would like you to know about three new opportunities available through the Recovery Act:

- **Department of Labor Clean Energy Job Training**
- **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants**
- **Reauthorization and Expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance**

Please Note Due to the competitive nature of these funding opportunities, strong collaboration and partnerships are encouraged, as they may increase chances for a successful award.

Department of Labor Clean Energy Job Training

The Recovery Act designates \$500 million to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy. An overview of potential opportunities for anticipated funding is below. Please note that final funding opportunities may vary from the list below. Senator Brown will send out additional information and application details as they become available. The Department of Labor anticipates that solicitations will be published in June 2009, with application closing dates beginning late summer.

1. **State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants** - State Workforce Agencies or consortia of multi-State Workforce Agencies can compete for these funds to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor market data and develop an infrastructure to direct individuals to new careers in the clean energy sector. This includes identifying the needs of employers, and matching workers with these jobs.
2. **Energy Training Partnership Grants** - Two sets of applicants are eligible to solicit grant money within this program: (1) national labor-management organizations with local networks; and (2) statewide or local strategic nonprofit partnerships consisting of labor-management organizations, labor, business, Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), and

other organizations. Partnerships are recommended. Grants focus on dislocated workers and may be used to create apprenticeships. A portion of funds will be reserved for communities undergoing auto-industry restructuring.

3. **Pathways out of Poverty Grants** - These funds provide training and placement services in clean energy industries for targeted low-income and under-skilled workers, unemployed, or high school dropouts. This includes recruitment, skills and occupational training, and support services. National community-based and faith-based organizations with local networks are eligible, or, local partnerships of community organizations, education and training institutions, business, and/or labor can apply. Partnerships are recommended.
4. **State Sector Training Grants** - This is a competitive opportunity for State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, as well as, One Stop Career Centers to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Strong partnerships, relationships with other State agencies receiving Recovery funds, targeting the needs of a specific industry, and creating an integrated system of education, training, and support services will be taken into account in the application. A portion of the funds will be reserved for communities undergoing auto-industry restructuring.
5. **Green Capacity Building Grants** - This opportunity will build the capacity of current Department of Labor grantees to prepare targeted populations for employment in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector. Funds will help current grantees to update existing training and job placement programs. Funds may be applied to the purchase of equipment, staff professional development, curriculum or partnership development, and additional staff hires.
6. **Transition of Auto Workers to Energy Efficient Workforce** - A portion of funds will be reserved to facilitate the transition of auto workers to the energy efficient workforce. Communities and regions that have experienced significant auto dislocation may apply, including the loss of original equipment manufacturers and Tier 1, 2, and 3 part suppliers. Again, collaboration is recommended.

For more information, visit: http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2755

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation published a funding opportunity announcement and solicitation of applications for a \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program. Under this program, funds will be awarded competitively to State and local governments for capital investments in highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail, and port infrastructure investments. Priority will be given to projects that have a significant impact or desirable long-term

impact, improve the condition of existing transport systems and facilities, contribute to economic competitiveness, improve quality of living, improve energy efficiency, create jobs, and/or benefit economically distressed areas.

The grants can range from \$20 million up to \$300 million to support high impact transportation projects. Transportation Secretary LaHood can waive the minimum requirement for projects in smaller cities, regions, or states.

Applications for TIGER discretionary grants must be submitted by September 15, 2009. Award announcements will be made no later than February 17, 2010.

For more information, visit: <http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/>

Reauthorization and Expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance

Senator Brown would like to remind you that the Recovery Act reauthorizes and expands Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Programs to help workers who have been directly affected by the economic downturn and spur economic growth. The bill significantly expands current TAA Programs to include trade-affected services sector workers and workers affected by off shoring or outsourcing to all countries, including China and India. It reauthorizes all TAA programs through December 31, 2010. The additional incentives include:

- Ensure automatic eligibility for workers suffering from unfair trade and import surges.
- Cover workers whose firms shift production to all countries.
- Extend TAA benefits to service sector workers and firms.
- Expand TAA coverage for U.S. suppliers of component parts.
- Streamline eligibility criteria for TAA for farmers and authorizes that program at \$90 million per fiscal year.
- Increase the Health Coverage Tax Credit to 80 percent.
- Make wage insurance more accessible and flexible with other benefits.

For more information, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/WhoWeServe.cfm>

Senator Brown will send out additional Recovery information when available. Visit Senator Brown's Recovery website for up-to-date Recovery information:
http://brown.senate.gov/issues_and_agenda/issues/recovery/

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