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# Stimulus Update

## Guidelines Published on Transportation, Green Jobs, Housing, Solar and Geothermal Energy

### TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation published the guidelines for the \$1.5 B multi-modal discretionary grants. Applications are due September 15th. DOT intends to fund transportation projects ranging from \$20 million to \$300 million,

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but the minimum project amount can be waived. Funding is 100% federal, but priority will be given to those projects for which federal funding is required to complete an overall financing package that includes non-federal sources of funds. Also, priority will be given to projects that can be completed by February 17, 2012.

### LABOR/GREEN JOBS

On May 15th, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor sent a memo to State Workforce Agencies/Administrators outlining the various grants for green jobs projects. The Solicitation for Grant Applications will be published in June 2009. The memo detailed the 5 anticipated grants:

- 1). **State Labor Market Improvement Grants** – this grant is for State Workforce Agencies or consortia of State Workforce Agencies to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor market information, as well as develop labor exchange infrastructure to direct individuals to career in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

2). **Energy Training Partnership Grants** – this grant is for training programs that lead to employment in careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. There will be two separate applicant pools – one for national labor-management organizations with local networks and one for statewide or local strategic nonprofit partnerships consisting of labor management organizations, labor, business, WIBs and other organizations.

3). **Pathway Out of Poverty** – these grants are to provide training and placement services to individuals seeking pathways out of poverty into employment within the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. There will be two separate applicant pools – one for national community-based and faith-based organizations with local networks and one for local partnerships that include community based organizations, education and training institutions, business, and labor organizations.

4). **State Sector Training Grants** – these grant funds will be used to provide training and job placement activities aligned with a workforce sector strategy that will target energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. State Workforce Investment Boards can apply.

5). **Green Capacity Building Grants** – Funding is to be used to build the capacity of current DOL grantees to prepare targeted populations for employment in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

There will also be a portion of the Energy Training Partnership Grants and State Sector Training Grants reserved to facilitate the transition of auto and auto-related workers to the green/energy efficient workforce. Grants will provide job training, counseling, and placement services to residents from auto communities or incumbent and dislocated workers affected by significant automotive-related restructuring.

## HOUSING

1). **Neighborhood Stabilization Fund** – HUD is hosting a grant competition for Neighborhood Stabilization Fund dollars that were included in the stimulus. Applications are due by July 17, 2009. States, units of general local government, nonprofits, and consortia of nonprofits are eligible to apply.

### **Funding can be used for the following:**

- a. Establish financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed upon homes and residential properties, including such mechanisms as soft-second, loan loss reserves, and shared-equity loans for low-and moderate-income homebuyers;

- b. Purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon, in order to sell, rent, or redevelop such homes and properties;
- c. Establish land banks for homes and residential properties that have been foreclosed upon;
- d. Demolish blighted structures; and
- e. Redevelop demolished or vacant properties as housing.

2). **Public Housing Capital Fund** – HUD is hosting a grant competition for Public Housing Capital Fund dollars that were included in the stimulus bill. Applications for the Energy Efficiency category are due on July 21, 2009, while applications for the other three categories are due on August 18, 2009. Funding is available to all public housing agencies (PHAs) that own or operate Low-Income Public Housing, except PHAs that manage only a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

**Funding can be use for the following:**

- a. Development, financing, and modernization of public housing projects, including the redesign, reconstruction, and reconfiguration of public housing sites and buildings (including accessibility improvements) and the development of mixed-finance projects;
- b. Vacancy reduction;
- c. Addressing deferred maintenance needs and the replacement of obsolete utility systems and dwelling equipment;
- d. Planned code compliance;
- e. Management improvements;
- f. Demolition and replacement;
- g. Resident relocation;
- h. Capital expenditures to facilitate programs to improve the empowerment and economic self-sufficiency of public housing residents and to improve resident participation;
- i. Capital expenditures to improve the security and safety of residents; and
- j. Certain homeownership activities

## ENERGY

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Energy announced several new grant programs funded by the economic stimulus bill aimed at expanding and accelerating the development, deployment, and use of geothermal and solar energy throughout the United States. DOE will award funding in the following areas:

### Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy is a clean source of renewable energy that harnesses heat from the Earth for heating applications and electricity generation; geothermal plants can

operate around the clock to provide significant, uninterrupted "base load" electricity, or the minimum amount a power utility must provide to its customers.

**1. Geothermal Demonstration Projects (\$140 Million)**

Funding will support demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies to advance geothermal energy in new geographic areas, as well as geothermal energy production from oil and natural gas fields, geopressured fields, and low to moderate temperature geothermal resources.

**2. Enhanced Geothermal Systems Technology Research and Development (\$80 Million)**

Funding will support research of EGS technology to allow geothermal power generation across the country. Conventional geothermal energy systems must be located near easily-accessible geothermal water resources, limiting its nationwide use. EGS makes use of available heat resources through engineered reservoirs, which can then be tapped to produce electricity. While the long-term goal of EGS is to generate cost competitive clean electricity, enabling research and development is needed to demonstrate the technology's readiness in the near-term.

**3. Innovative Exploration Techniques (\$100 Million)**

Funding will support projects that include exploration, siting, drilling, and characterization of a series of exploration wells utilizing innovative exploration techniques. Exploration of geothermal energy resources can carry a high upfront risk. By investing in and validating innovative exploration technologies and methods, DOE can help reduce the level of upfront risk for the private sector, allowing for increased investment and discovery of new geothermal resources.

**4. National Geothermal Data System, Resource Assessment, and Classification System (\$30 Million)**

The long-term success of geothermal energy technologies depends upon a detailed characterization of geothermal energy resources nationwide. In 2008, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) conducted an assessment of high temperature resource potential in the Western United States. To fully leverage new low-temperature, geopressured, co-production, and EGS technologies, DOE will support a nationwide assessment of geothermal resources, working through the USGS and other partners. Second, DOE will support the development of a nationwide data system to make resource data available to academia, researchers, and the private sector. Finally, DOE will support the development of a geothermal resource classification system for use in determining site potential.

## Solar Energy

DOE will provide \$117.6 million in Recovery Act funding to accelerate widespread commercialization of clean solar energy technologies across America. These activities will leverage partnerships that include DOE's national laboratories, universities, local government, and the private sector, to strengthen the U.S. solar industry and make it a leader in international markets.

### 1. Photovoltaic Technology Development (\$51.5 Million)

DOE will expand investment in advanced photovoltaic concepts and high impact technologies, with the aim of making solar energy cost-competitive with conventional sources of electricity and to strengthen the competitiveness and capabilities of domestic manufacturers.

### 2. Solar Energy Deployment (\$40.5 Million)

Projects in this area will focus on non-technical barriers to solar energy deployment, including grid connection, market barriers to solar energy adoption in cities, and the shortage of trained solar energy installers. Combined with new technology development, these deployment activities will help clear the path for wider adoption of solar energy in residential, commercial, and municipal environments.

### 3. Concentrating Solar Power Research and Development (\$25.6 Million)

This work will focus on improving the reliability of concentrating solar power technologies and enhancing the capabilities of DOE National Laboratories to provide test and evaluation support to the solar industry.

For information on these and other Funding Opportunities under the Recovery Act, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Recovery and Reinvestment Act page on [Funding Opportunities: http://www.energy.gov/recovery/funding.htm](http://www.energy.gov/recovery/funding.htm)

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