

#### Helping Low-Income People and Those with Barriers to Employment Access Work in the Green Economy

By Elena Foshay, Research Associate March 10, 2010

## The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of business, labor, environmental, and community organizations working toward:

**Energy Security** 



**Climate Stability** 



**Economic Prosperity** 



## The nation is making investments that will create good jobs and shift our entire economy towards clean energy:

"We'll put people back to work rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizing schools that are failing our children, and building wind farms and solar panels, fuelefficient cars and the alternative energy technologies that can free us from our dependence on foreign oil and keep our economy competitive in the years ahead"



## Five Areas of State and Local Innovation

- Manufacturing
- Energy Efficiency
- Job Access/Job Quality
- Career Pathways
- Training Partnerships



#### Manufacturing

- Integrating economic and workforce development strategies - Michigan
  - Advanced Battery Manufacturing
  - Clean Energy Advanced Manufacturing Program
  - No Worker Left Behind
- Using Recovery Act funds to support clean energy manufacturing and industrial energy efficiency
  - Wisconsin: Clean Energy Business Loan Program
  - Indiana: Green Industries Fund
  - Pennsylvania: GreenWorks Pennsylvania
- Investing in public transit while creating local jobs
  - Portland: United Streetcar
  - Washington: Sound Transit

#### **Energy Efficiency**

- Saving energy and creating good jobs in the construction sector
  - Portland: Clean Energy Works
    - Established a Community Workforce Agreement with wage, hiring, and training standards
    - Built in strong contractor certification requirements
  - Boston: Community Mobilization Initiative
    - Creates pathways out of poverty by hiring residents from local neighborhoods where work is being done
    - Guarantees family-supporting wage with benefits
    - Partners with building trades unions to provide training

#### Job Access and Job Quality

- Equity and job quality standards must be built into programs and public funding streams from the beginning, including:
  - Self-sufficiency wage standards
  - Benefits guarantees, including health insurance and paid sick time
  - Targeted and local hiring
  - Responsible Employer Requirements
  - Connection with training

#### Job Access and Job Quality

- Portland Clean Energy Works Community Workforce Agreement
  - 80% local hire requirement
  - 30% of work hours preformed by target populations
  - Wages at 180% of state minimum wage or prevailing wage
  - 20% of project dollars to minority- or womenowned businesses
  - 50% of work hours by training program graduates
  - Labor Peace
  - Best Value Contracting

#### **Career Pathways**

- Career pathways help job seekers move from entrylevel work into higher-paid, more specialized positions
  - Every step along the pathway should be designed to prepare students for the next level of both employment and training
- Strong career pathways:
  - Align and integrate training system components
  - Are accessible through various entry points
  - Emphasize portability
  - Connect with K-12 and adult education and on-the-job training
  - Link to actual employers and real jobs

### **Training Partnerships**

- Training partnerships build connections between the different elements of the workforce development system
- Partnerships help target populations get connected to training opportunities, and help build strong career pathways
- Partnerships should include:
  - Education institutions
  - Labor unions
  - Community-based programs and support services
  - Workforce agencies/WIBs
  - Employers

# For more information, visit www.apolloalliance.org or contact Elena Foshay foshay@apolloalliance.org

