

# **Wisconsin EECBG ramp-up application labor standards language**

*(covering the cities of Milwaukee, Madison and Racine)*

The Cities of Madison and Milwaukee will:

Engage in a stakeholder process to develop the Community Workforce Agreement to be in place prior to the grant award. The Community Workforce Agreement will set standards for contractors, including: (1) licensure and insurance; (2) safety, (3) utilization of a trained workforce with Environmental Hazard Awareness and other skills in weatherization and energy efficiency certified by a national standards body with competency testing (e.g., Building Performance Institute) or a Joint Apprenticeship Committee; (4) Davis Bacon wages, (4) compliance with locally authorized disadvantaged hiring standards, and (5) compliance record-keeping.

WECC agrees to:

1. Initiate, manage and monitor contractual agreements, which will incorporate specific criteria and additional requirements as determined in MOUs regarding a community workforce agreement, and as determined in the project plan.

Milwaukee's WRTP/Big Step program is a key partner in the application.

WRTP/BIG STEP is an employer-driven community-based pre-apprenticeship program in Milwaukee that will:

- Act as the workforce intermediary for all components of the project (residential, commercial, industrial)
- Conduct workforce needs assessment and job forecasting
- Coordinate recruitment, screening and assessment of available workforce
- Provide industry training and education as needed to ensure there is a local workforce with the credentials necessary to fulfill the requirements to perform the work outlined in this grant proposal
- Ensure career pathways for community residents, unemployed, disadvantaged, and newly dislocated
- Provide tracking and retention services for individuals served through the project
- Act as a resource center by providing technical assistance when appropriate to employers and contractors, to ensure that local contractors have the necessary credentials to enable them to successfully bid on the work that will be created through the program.
- Coordinate with community-based organizations running workforce development programs (such as Milwaukee Builds initiative) to ensure that low-income residents have access to the job opportunities being developed here

- Act as a clearinghouse to connect this initiative with area Joint Apprenticeship Committees and other statewide energy efficiency training initiatives
- Coordinate all activities with the oversight committee and program administrator in a timely manner and according to the program plans.

The application further signals Wisconsin's commitment to ARRA purposes:

The WE2 Team is fully committed to the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This project is designed to: provide immediate and sustainable work for energy efficiency auditors, contractors and installers; accelerate workforce development for new and displaced community-based workers; and provide lasting, good paying job opportunities in the building retrofits market. This project will develop a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) requiring responsible contractors, quality training and career pathways, and a local hiring preference.

The City of Milwaukee has been adversely impacted by the current recession and earlier economic events, causing unemployment rates to soar past 9% (with segments of the population approaching 50% unemployment). The economic effect of a local vibrant energy efficiency retrofits market (that has good paying jobs as its nexus) will be augmented by an increase in local spending power as energy savings are realized.

The total budget for this proposal is approximately \$698 million, including local leverage. The Office of Management and Budget reports that one job is created or retained for every \$92,000 in stimulus funds. Based on this assumption, the project will generate or retain almost 7,600 jobs during the project period, creating the workforce and infrastructure for long-term program sustainability.