

December 28, 2009

Dear Governor and General Assembly:

The Employment Opportunities Grant Program (20 ILCS 605/605-812) requires the Department to administer a grant program to expand employment opportunities for targeted populations in eligible grant areas in Illinois and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the activities undertaken by all successful grant applicants.

SUMMARY

For FY '09, the Department continued the program by extending three FY08 grants (Joliet Junior College, Northern Illinois Minority Companies Association, and Painters District Council #30) to 24 months and adding eleven new FY'09 grantees. The goal of the Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP) remains to expand the number of people in historically underrepresented populations who enter and complete building trades apprenticeship programs and achieve journey-level status within building trades unions. These are careers that are physically and mentally demanding, but which offer wages and benefits on which a family can be supported.

PROGRAM MODEL

The FY '09 program model continues to focus on four important aspects:

- **It is industry-driven.** The EOGP links the supply-side pipeline to industry's demands for a skilled workforce, in terms of both the number of skilled workers required for specific, critical jobs and the removal of barriers and provision of support structures to assist historically underrepresented populations in the development of the requisite skills for entry into and advancement through careers in this sector.
- **It includes all major constituents.** The EOGP consortium approach received commitments of support from the Builders' Association, the local Trades Council, community-based organizations, and educational entities, including both the Chicago Public Schools and the City Colleges of Chicago.
- **It impacts private as well as public construction projects.** Many large contractors employ a union workforce on private construction projects. The inclusion of these contractors and projects expands the number of participant employers in the consortium and increases the opportunities for job placements among the targeted populations.
- **It provides a regional solution.** The projects on which targeted populations can be employed are not restricted to specific geographies. Workers may enter the program through a construction project in their own neighborhood and advance to other projects in the greater Chicago-land region.

Participation in the EOGP consisted of the submittal of proposals demonstrating the ability to train in the area of construction and support from the local trade unions or signatory contractors to the unions which was required from eligible entities.

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GRANTEES

COOK COUNTY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grantee	Contact	Address	City
Chicago Urban League	Cheryl Freeman-Smith	845 W. 69th St.	Chicago
Commission on Economic Opportunity	Jackie Grant	1327 Ellis Ave.	Ford Heights
Good Shepherd Community Service Organization	Jesse Knox III	5700 S. Prairie Ave.	Chicago
Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA)	Nelson Robles	901 W. Jackson, Ste. 205	Chicago
Keep the Faith Foundation	Joann Noble	37 S. Ashland Ave.	Chicago
Omega Uplift Foundation	Williams Scott III		Chicago
We are Our Brothers Keeper	Rick McCoy	1645 E. 79th St.	Chicago

STATEWIDE GRANT RECIPIENTS

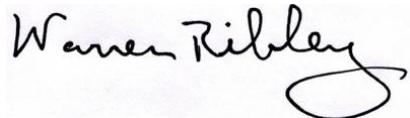
Grantee	Contact	Address	City
Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County	Arthur J. Gass, Sr.	1020 W. Glen Flora Ave., Ste. 104	Waukegan
Joliet Junior College	Paige Vanderhyden	214 N. Ottawa	Joliet
Northern Illinois Minority Companies Association (NIMCA)	Excell Lewis	425 E. State Street	Rockford
Painters District Council #30/Opportunities Alliance of Illinois program	Laura Berry	1905 Sequoia Dr., Ste. 201	Aurora
Youth Build Lake County	Michael Witherspoon	3001 N. Green Bay Road, Bldg. 1	North Chicago
Youth Conservation Corps	David Mangus	221 N. Genesee St.	Waukegan

YEAR TO DATE PERFORMANCE

# of individuals recruited	1603
# of individuals accepted	386
# graduate	155
# making union application	96
# accepted into union	19
# placed in trades employment	36
# achieve journeyman	0

With our continued commitment to this initiative, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity looks to make Illinois a national leader in expanding employment opportunities for targeted populations in the building trades.

Respectfully submitted,



Warren Ribley
Director