

December 22, 2010

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. Detailed below is a summary of EOGP's reorganization as well as its accomplishments.

SUMMARY

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's newly-created Office of Urban Assistance was responsible for overseeing EOGP in FY '10. EOGP underwent significant restructuring for a variety of reasons, chief among them the downturned economy and dearth of vertical construction. Many building trades unions were forced to temporarily suspend their apprenticeship programs, thus frustrating the original purpose of EOGP--to increase the number of women and minorities in those very unions. Existing EOGP grantees were forced to alter their objectives, while incoming grantees were evaluated on the number of potential job placements and other performance measures they could reasonably be expected to achieve.

Performance measures were expanded to include the number of trainees who were, upon completion of the program, able to find building trades employment, continue their education, receive additional skills training, and/or become entrepreneurs.

PROGRAM MODEL

The FY '10 program model continues to focus on its founding principles of being an industry-driven, constituent-based, regional solution to the lack of women and minorities in the building trades, while focusing on both private and public construction opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In FY'10, for the first time in three years, a competitive application process was held. Applicants were evaluated on their: proposed curriculum; grants management experience; partnerships with unions or signatory contractors; and the cost-effectiveness of proposed program.

The Department was able to award slightly less than \$3 mil to 13 grantees. Of these, 7 were

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previous awardees and 6 are new to the program. Many grantees began recruitment and training efforts despite receiving funds nearly 6 months after the grants were awarded. Other achievements include:

*The Department received and reviewed more than 40 applications.

*The Department conducted 28 prospective grantee interviews.

*13 grants were awarded statewide.

*The Department drafted administrative rules and revised program guidelines.

*Improved communications and provided greater infrastructure and oversight for grantees to ensure compliance. Broadened definition of "success" under program guidelines to track data beyond mere acceptance into Building Trades Unions. New data tracked includes: job placement (whether union or non-union); continuing education; entrepreneurship efforts; referral for additional supports.

GRANTEE SUCCESSES

Many of the grantees report numerous successful initiatives. We highlight a few below:

*At least 3 grantees have initiated "green" training components to their curricula.

*Two grantee organizations have had trainees construct homes within their communities for low to moderate-income families. All of the homes have incorporated green technology and energy efficiency/conservation materials.

*A new grantee recently placed 7 trainees in employment for \$28.50 per hour. The trainees will continue EOGP courses at night and work during the day until completing full certification.

GRANTEES

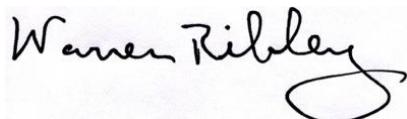
Organization Name	Address
Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County, Inc. <i>Pre-Apprentice Program</i>	1020 W. Glen Flora Avenue, Ste 104 Waukegan, IL. 60085-1883
Black Contractors United, Inc. <i>Green Horizon's Women's Pre-Apprentice Program</i>	400 W. 76th Street, Suite 200 Chicago, IL. 60620
Black United Fund of Illinois, Inc. <i>Community Trades Apprenticeship Program</i>	1750 E. 71st Street, Suite 200 Chicago, IL. 60649
Chicago Women In Trades <i>Technical Opportunities Program</i>	4425 S. Western Blvd, Rear Chicago, IL. 60609
Hire Learning Career Development Academy <i>Building Skills Pre-Apprenticeship Program</i>	20303 S. Crawford Avenue Olympia Fields, IL. 60461
New Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church <i>Pre-Apprenticeship Training Project</i>	8130 S. Racine Avenue Chicago, IL. 60620
Sinai Community Institute <i>Pre-Apprenticeship Training Project</i>	2653 West Ogden Avenue Chicago, IL. 60608
St. Paul COGIC Community Development Ministries, Inc. <i>Project P.R.I.D.E. Bldg & Construction Trades Program</i>	4526 S. Wabash Avenue Chicago, IL. 60653
Southwestern Illinois College <i>Construction Training Program (Green)</i>	2500 Carlyle Avenue Belleville, IL. 62221
United Services of Chicago, Inc. <i>Construction Trades Program</i>	4455 S. Martin Luther King Chicago, IL. 60653
Vision of Restoration, Inc. <i>Building Trades Apprenticeship Program</i>	1309 Madison Street Maywood, IL. 60153
Youthbuild Lake County <i>Building Trade Apprenticeship Program</i>	1636 Kristan Avenue North Chicago, IL. 60064
Youth Conservation Corps, Inc. <i>Building Trades Program</i>	221 N. Genesee Street Waukegan, IL. 60085

YEAR TO DATE PERFORMANCE

# of individuals recruited	2682
# of individuals accepted	725
# graduate	374
# making union application	177
# accepted into union	27
# placed in trades employment	47
# achieve journeyman^{1*}	N/A

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

¹ It takes 4 years to achieve journeyman status. EOGP has not been in existence long enough to produce trainees that have achieved this status.