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Ohio Receives 2 “Green Jobs” Grant Awards through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has been named the recipient of two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Labor Market Information (LMI) Improvement grants aimed at building a skilled workforce for “green jobs” in Ohio.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Ohio and Ohioans,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “The energy efficiency and renewable energy industries hold a great deal of promise for Ohio, and for Ohioans willing to pursue new career paths. These industries will be with us for some time. All they need is a skilled workforce, and we can provide them with that.”

ODJFS will partner with the Governor’s Workforce Policy Advisory Board, the Ohio Board of Regents and the University System of Ohio on the first grant, which will give the state \$1 million to identify the skills most needed by green industries, so that curricula and training programs can be developed around those needs. Interested job seekers can then be connected with green jobs-related workforce development services, training providers and job opportunities.

“The University System of Ohio’s most important role is to lay the foundation for the state’s economic growth, and green jobs are vital to that foundation,” said Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut. “Today’s announcement accelerates our progress toward that goal.”

Ohio will share the second grant – a total of \$4 million – with Indiana and Michigan, so that all three states can coordinate their efforts to help dislocated auto industry workers pursue new career paths in green industries. Indiana will be identifying the skills that auto industry workers currently have that might also be useful in green industries. Michigan and Ohio will be gathering information from auto industry manufacturers and parts suppliers about their changing business environments and labor force needs. Ohio also will be conducting a “green jobs survey” of Ohio employers, to better identify the number of green jobs available in the state, and the skills required to fill them.

“Career opportunities in green industries are becoming more popular in our state,” said Ohio Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel. “We are grateful for these funds that will help train job seekers and provide them with the specific skill sets needed to thrive in a 21st century green workplace.”