

## **Constructing Futures Initiative**

**Goal:** The goal of the Constructing Futures Initiative is to train Ohioans of historically underrepresented populations in the building trades so that they may excel in a career in union construction, ultimately leading to a family-sustaining wage and occupation.

**Total Funds:** The initiative will be funded with **\$4 million** from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Statewide Workforce funds in Fiscal Year 2010.

**Grant Awards:** A competitive request for proposals will be released statewide and make available \$300,000 for a single workforce investment board applicant and \$500,000 for two or more workforce investment boards who apply together. Applicants must provide a 50% match which can come from any or all of the partners to the application.

**Target Population:** This initiative will target minority groups, women, veterans, dislocated workers, and ex-offenders. Each local workforce investment area will recruit eligible participants for awarded programs.

**Eligible Applicants/ Required Partners:** Workforce Investment Boards, Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors, and University System of Ohio institutions

**Optional Partners:** Community Non-profits, Faith based organizations, Community Action Agencies, Local Governments, One Stop agencies

**Eligible Activities:** Eligible activities for grant funds include outreach to targeted populations, supportive services (including both pre-apprenticeship and during apprenticeship), basic literacy and GED attainment through University System of Ohio institutions, training stipends for pre-apprentices while in classroom work, and eligible tools and equipment

Language will be included in the RFP indicating that the monies being allocated to entities must have letters of support from collaborating Registered Apprenticeship Programs in various occupations, thus ensuring a pathway to self-sustaining living wage and benefit packages as well as transferable skills sets.

**RFP Release Date:** Early June, 2009