

State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) Grant Initiative  
Overview – May 2013

**State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP)** – The SESP Program is the result of a \$6M contract awarded to the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD). The duration of the contract is January 2010-June 30, 2013. The goals of the program, accomplished in part through training programs, are to foster the development of New Jersey's unemployed and incumbent workforce to meet the demands of the Energy Efficiency (EE), Renewable Energy (RE), and other industries where jobs produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. The second goal is to have these individuals acquire nationally recognized and portable industry recognized credentials and certificates.

**Eligible Applicants** - To be eligible for SESP funds you must fall within the following categories: New Jersey training provider that is on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), a New Jersey Community or Faith-Based Organization, a New Jersey employer within EE or RE industries, a New Jersey business implementing procedures or processes that reduce carbon footprint, and New Jersey Industry Association with the EE or RE industries and Labor and/or trade organizations within the EE or RE industries.

Targeted Populations

Over and above the eligibility criteria required to apply, unemployed and incumbent persons identified to be trained with SESP funds must fall within one or more of the below criteria: Workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy; individuals in need of updated training related to EE and RE industries; veterans, or past and present members of reserve components of the Armed Forces; unemployed individuals; at-risk youth; individuals with criminal records; individuals who are economically disadvantaged; individuals displaced through automotive and manufacturing downsizing; disadvantaged individuals within areas of high poverty (poverty rate is 15% or greater); high school drop-outs; or other individuals, such as untapped labor pools, and entry-level and incumbent workers that do not fit into the categories above. In addition, all males over the age of 18 that receive training with SESP grant dollars must be registered for Selective Service.

Eligible Courses

The SESP Grant is approved to deliver specific courses with corresponding credentials or certificates. The available courses include: Various Building Performance Institute (BPI)

Credentials, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Credentials; Lean Implementation; Opportunity Trust Fund which consists of other courses within the EE and RE industries (Solar, Geothermal, etc.); and On-The-Job (OJT) Training for new workers. OJT contracts are delivered on a regional level and cannot exceed \$4,000 per person. Allowable reimbursement for classroom training is tuition, books and testing costs.

Application Process

SESP grant funds are awarded through a competitive application process. Available Notice of Grant Opportunities (NGOs) can be found at [www.njsetc.net/sesp](http://www.njsetc.net/sesp). The website will identify all available funding, the application process, vendor selection and appropriate deadline dates to be considered. The duration of contracts is between 6 and 9 months. Grant awards do not currently have a maximum or minimum award amount.

Contact Information

If applicants have any questions, regional contacts are:

- Northern counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, City of Newark, Union, Passaic, Morris, Sussex and Warren – Kathy Weaver, Vice President of Programs for Newark Alliance at 973-596-6400 ext. 112.
- Central counties: Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Greater Raritan. – Eileen Higgins at 732-683-8850 ext. 2011.
- Southern counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem - Dante Rieti, Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Development for Cumberland/Salem counties at 856-451-8920.

Technical Assistance is also available through the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC), by contacting Maureen O'Brien-Murphy at 609-777-1724.

Current Statistics

- \$5.4M available for training grants
  - \$5.4M awarded to date
  - \$4.2 M actual invoiced to date
- 3412 to be trained (1468 unemployed & 1944 incumbent)
  - 2430 enrolled to date
  - 1969 completed to date
  - 2404 credentials/certificates awarded to date