

## Abstract – Michigan State Energy Sector Partnership, CLEG/DELEG

The State of Michigan Council for Labor & Economic Growth, in partnership with the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, is pleased to submit its proposal for a State Energy Sector Partnership & Training Grant (SGA/DFA PY-08-20), titled *Michigan State Energy Sector Partnership, CLEG/DELEG*. The State of Michigan's \$6,000,000 grant request will go to support implementation of the State's Energy Sector Strategy and selected Regional Project Teams focused on high-growth renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) industries in Michigan, including: Advanced Energy Storage, Solar, and Energy Efficient Construction. The grant will serve 1282 citizens, support training for 1137 participants, and place 1052 in employment. The project will connect Michigan workers to jobs and career pathways in targeted industries, helping to simultaneously advance the state's integrated energy, workforce and economic development vision. Michigan's application targets 17 counties for services, 12 of which are federally-designated in the SGA as "impacted by auto-related restructuring" (\$4,394,779 of the grant request will go to these impacted counties). The grant will continue to strengthen the capacity of the state, and the country, to be a global hub for industrial innovation and advanced manufacturing in the emerging, new energy economy.

Governor Granholm's vision for the energy sector is to "thrive economically by exporting sustainable solutions," helping create jobs while reducing reliance on fossil fuels and emitting less CO<sub>2</sub>. Meeting the needs of energy sector employers for skilled workers will be critical to the realization of this vision in Michigan, as will be creating opportunities for incumbent and dislocated workers, and otherwise unemployed citizens. Recognizing this opportunity, Michigan launched its Green Jobs Initiative in 2008 and created a stakeholder partnership—the Green Partnership Team—to guide an initial \$6 million investment in green jobs training and placement under the state's No Worker Left Behind Initiative. Michigan decided to leverage its existing Green Partnership Team and include additional members to meet the DOL's requirements and suggestions for the State Energy Sector Partnership.

The SESP will focus on job training, placement and retention in:

**Advanced Energy Storage** (*Renewable Electric Power; Energy Efficient and Advanced Drive Trains*)

Michigan will leverage its partnership with advanced energy storage (AES) employers and the \$1.36 billion recently awarded by U.S. Department of Energy grants along with other privately matched funds and tax incentives to form an Advanced Battery Skills Alliance to help address the need for an estimated 6800 jobs in the next 18 months, and 40,000 jobs by 2020. The AES-focused Regional Project Team is led by a local workforce agency and regional workforce collaborative, and includes training provided by community college, multiple universities, and private employer faculty. The regional focus for this industry is Southeast Michigan and includes Detroit and surrounding urban, suburban, and rural areas. The project will provide undergraduate and/or graduate level training and placement assistance for 325 participants (incumbents and new hires) for a variety of AES employers and a range of occupations including: Design, Development and Test Engineers/Technicians, Assemblers, Technologists, and Engineers across several concentrations.

**Solar** (*Renewable Electric Power; Construction, and Retrofit*)

As a global hub for technological innovation and manufacturing, Michigan is well positioned to design and manufacture the next generation of solar technology products and services needed to advance a new energy economy. Even as overall employment in Michigan has dropped significantly, nearly 1900 jobs have been added in solar and other renewable energy industries from 2005 to 2008 (7.1% growth rate). Beyond existing solar companies, several new developments are on the forefront including Clairvoyant Solar, Oerlikon Solar and Suniva planning to fill a combined 1500 jobs in the next four to six years. Michigan has two solar-focused Regional Project Teams. The first team in Southeast Michigan (urban, suburban, and rural) is led by the local workforce agencies, community colleges and employers. The second team includes nine counties in Mid-Michigan (urban, suburban and rural) led by the local workforce

agency and encompasses a well established partnership between the local college and existing solar employers. The grant will assist in training 600 Chemical Process Technicians as identified by the employer partnership, as well as 75 Solar Engineering Technicians and Installers.

**Energy Efficient Construction** (*EE Building, Construction, and Retrofit; and EE Assessment*)

While the construction industry in Michigan has dropped dramatically due to economic decline, EE construction-related jobs have continued to grow in large part to due to public policies and growing demand in Michigan (EE jobs grew 2.4% from 2005-2008). Michigan's EE Construction strategy will target growth occupations including HVAC workers, construction laborers/managers, environmental specialists, landscape workers, energy auditors and inspectors, deconstruction and hazardous waste removal workers. The EE-construction-focused Regional Project Team is focused in the Flint-area including Genesee and Shiawassee Counties (an urban, suburban and rural area), and is led by the local workforce agency in partnership with building trades associations, community action agencies, bank banks, housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, colleges, and faith-based organizations. The project team will serve 225 participants, help place over 100 workers in jobs, and retain 112 jobs. Participant training will lead, in most cases, to Green Construction and Sustainable Construction certificates, an Associates degree, and/or trade apprenticeship opportunities.

Michigan has been at the forefront nationally in the effort to promote a new clean energy economy and programs leading to good jobs in it. The State's commitment to this is demonstrated by its combined energy-workforce-economic development efforts, and its additional investment of \$6 million to create the Green Jobs Initiative, Green Partnership Team, and a variety of Green Sector Skills Alliances and training opportunities for Michigan workers. We are confident our programs can be adapted and expanded elsewhere and would welcome the opportunity to share lessons and materials with other communities that might benefit from our project.