

DOL Critical Sectors Job Quality Grant Round 2: Building a Stronger, More Diverse Clean Energy Workforce for South Central Wisconsin

Project Purpose: This project will focus on increasing diversity of the workforce in the climate resiliency sector. This sector has a high demand for workers and strong projected job growth, and it provides jobs offering family-sustaining wages and benefits for workers without a four-year college degree. Since the sector's workforce is less diverse than the surrounding community, it will benefit from connecting with workers from historically marginalized populations, who represent a largely untapped labor pool.

The project will focus on convening and planning with industry and workforce ecosystem partners with the intent to stage for a forthcoming implementation grant. This project will improve diverse workers' access to apprenticeships that lead to existing clean energy career pathways by focusing on Good Job Principles 1) Recruitment & Hiring, 3) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA), and 8) Skills and Career Advancement.

Lead Applicant / Organization Name: United Way of Dane County, Inc.

Lead Applicant Entity Type: Non-Profit | Community-Based Organization

Lead Applicant City & State: Madison, Wisconsin

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

Funding Amount Requested: \$147,384 (total request)

WDBSCW Subaward Amount: \$25,000

Grant Period: October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2026 (18 months)

Applicants Geographic Scope of Proposed Project: Dane County, Wisconsin

Population(s) to be Served: Underrepresented populations (women, people of color, and persons with disabilities); Underserved communities (veterans, high school youth, opportunity youth, foster youth, and housing insecure youth); Unemployed workers; Underemployed workers; and Incumbent workers

WDBSCW Activities: Outreach, Youth Connection, and Subject Matter Experts

Partner Activities: Outreach, Research, Program Development, Sharing of Best Practices, and Apprenticeship Development

Required Partners: (Organization Name and Entity Type):

- Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW)
- Alliant Energy
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)
- Utility Contracts (i.e.: Hooper Corporation, Mead & Hunt, Miller Pipeline, Michels Power & Intercon)
- City of Madison
- Dane County Office of Energy & Climate
- WI Department of Workforce Development (DWD)
- Madison College
- MadREP

Project's Proposed Outcomes:

- Identify methods to improve recruitment and hiring within the climate resiliency sector and better reach applicants who are members of historically marginalized populations – outreach to diverse youth and young adults
- Identify DEIA best practices that can improve the working environment for underrepresented populations in the climate resiliency sector
- Plan a training program to effectively prepare workers from historically marginalized populations for Registered Apprenticeships within the targeted sector – including a plan for providing supportive services to help training participants be successful
- Secure signed commitments from program partners and the necessary funding to implement the project's plan at the end of the planning period

Public Contact Information:

Becky Kikkert

Development Director
Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin
3513 Anderson Street, Suite 104, Madison, WI 53704
608-249-9001
bkikkert@wdbscw.org

Learn more at: www.wdbscw.org/
