



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia Awarded Over \$1 Million in 'Pathways Out of Poverty' Grant for Green Jobs Training

PHILADELPHIA (January 18, 2010) — The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded a grant of more than \$1 million to Greater Philadelphia's **Job Opportunity Investment Network (JOIN)** to dramatically ramp up pathways into green industries for unemployed and disadvantaged individuals. The grant, which will be managed by the **Philadelphia WIB**, will help to revitalize the local economy and get people back to work in South Philadelphia.

The grant supports an initiative designed to build the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) to be full partners in developing a talent pipeline for the energy efficiency sector. Through this partnership, 200 low-skilled adults will be prepared to enter green-collar job training and employment.

As our growing interest in sustainability changes the way we do business in this country, workers need to become more green savvy. With this funding, we have the opportunity to develop a strong, replicable model to build these skills in our workforce. In addition to making those workers served by the model more competitive, their new knowledge also will advance Mayor Nutter's goal of making Philadelphia the greenest city in America," observed **Sallie Glickman, CEO of the Philadelphia WIB and a founding member of JOIN**

"For two years, the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia and the Green Economy Task Force have been leading the effort to create a comprehensive green collar job strategy for the Philadelphia region. We are thrilled that this grant will allow the region to fulfill this vision of creating jobs for the future that will benefit both low-income communities and local businesses," said **Leanne Krueger-Braneky, Executive Director of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia.**

The grant was awarded based on the innovative work of Philadelphia's existing Green Jobs Readiness Partnership (GRJP). GRJP brings together a network of neighborhood centers, a workforce investment board, and a green business association to create customized learning pathways to move low-skilled adults into green career pathways. Each of the partners in GRJP has a unique role:

- The **Federation of Neighborhood Centers, and its members Diversified Community Services, Lutheran Settlement House, and United Communities,** are identifying and assessing low-skilled job seekers and designing literacy, readiness and support programs to prepare job seekers for green jobs.

- The **Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia** is mapping out the green economy's workforce needs and helping to connect participants to jobs at local businesses.
- The **Philadelphia WIB** is managing the partnership and creating "feeder" arrangements with relevant training programs and the publicly funded workforce development system through **PA CareerLink**.

"Neighborhood centers are the ideal places for low-skilled adults to enter the workforce system because they live in neighborhoods and have trusting relationships with those who work in the centers," said **Diane Cornman-Levy, the Executive Director of the Federation of Neighborhood Centers**. "Building the capacity of these centers to be full partners in the talent pipeline for the clean energy sector will help bridge the gap between those who need work, the publicly funded workforce development system, and the employers."

GJRP was originally funded by **Living Cities**, an innovative philanthropic collaborative of 22 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions. With this new federal support, Philadelphia will be able to take such partnerships to the next level of scale and impact.

Ben Hecht, CEO and President of Living Cities, noted that "a key goal of our early stage grantmaking to Philadelphia and other leading cities was to position them to leverage future green jobs funding opportunities, especially through the Recovery Act. We could not be more pleased that the US Department of Labor has acknowledged the city's leadership on green jobs by awarding this new grant. The funds will not only build the capacity and infrastructure of Philadelphia's local institutions, but will improve the lives of low-income people and the places where they live."

The grant to Philadelphia is part of a larger \$8M grant to the **National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) Green Pathway Initiative**, which will also deliver green economy training, job placement, and retention services in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Milwaukee. The grant is also one of three received by Philadelphia institutions as part of the 'Pathways Out of Poverty' initiative.

About Diversified Community Services

Diversified Community Services seeks to enable children and families to realize their full potential and achieve self-reliance in safe neighborhoods. Given DCS' roots and 150 year old history, it is an anchor organization in South Philadelphia. Officially incorporated in 1970 through the merger of the Western Soup Society (1840s) and the University of Pennsylvania Settlement Houses and Camps (early 1900s), DCS has evolved into the largest human services agency in Point Breeze. With 130 employees operating from multiple sites, DCS serves over 8,000 children, youth and families in a year through a wide array of services that are easily accessible and close to home.

About Federation of Neighborhood Centers

The Federation of Neighborhood Centers (Federation) was created in 1906 to help build stronger neighborhoods by strengthening families and civic life. Its mission is achieved by working with member agencies - a network of 12 community-based anchor institutions that collectively provide culturally sensitive programs and services to more than 75,000 children, youth, adults and

families in 45 neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia per year. Using a three-pronged approach, we strengthen and promote our members through policy development, advocacy, and capacity-building activities. Learn more at the Federation's website, www.federationnc.org.

About Job Opportunity Investment Network

The Job Opportunity Investment Network (JOIN) seeks to increase the number of Greater Philadelphia workers earning family-sustaining wages. JOIN accomplishes this mission by investing in and advocating for industry-led partnerships that prepare low-skilled adults for high-demand, mid-skilled positions. Through these efforts, JOIN ensures that workers have career pathways; businesses, a talent pipeline. JOIN is a public-private partnership of five institutions who share a common interest in the prosperity and vitality of Greater Philadelphia: the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the William Penn Foundation, the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry.

About Living Cities

Founded in 1991, Living Cities is an innovative philanthropic collaborative of 22 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions. Living Cities' members are not simply funders. They participate at the senior management level on the board of directors, and contribute the time of 80-plus expert staff toward crafting and implementing Living Cities' agenda, which is focused on improving the lives of low-income people in America's urban areas. Over the past 18 years, Living Cities' members have collectively invested over \$600 million which has, in turn, leveraged more than \$16 billion in tangible community assets.

About Lutheran Settlement House

Lutheran Settlement House (LSH) is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to the empowerment of disadvantaged individuals and communities. LSH provides social, educational, employment, and counseling services to adults, youth, families, and seniors in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area.

About Philadelphia WIB

Founded in 1999, the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board is a volunteer commission appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia with the legislated responsibility to govern the public workforce system in the city, including the CareerLink Centers. The organization that supports the commission – Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, Inc. – provides expertise in all facets of workforce development, and works to align the skills of the region's labor force to meet the needs of industry, ultimately supporting the region's growth and prosperity. The organization's vision is a thriving and inclusive regional economy and its mission is to advocate and advance a demand-driven opportunity agenda that effectively prepares Philadelphians to compete in the economic mainstream.

About Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia

The mission of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) is to build a just, green, and thriving economy in the Greater Philadelphia region. We accomplish this by educating and growing a broad base of local, independent businesses and educating policy makers and the public. Over the past eight years, SBN has become a national leader in the local business movement and an influential force in the green economy. SBN's membership is made up of more than 500 companies representing over 5,000 employees in the Philadelphia region. SBN also convenes the Green Economy Task Force, a coalition that includes 400 stakeholders and 230 partner organizations, including local government, labor, green businesses, workforce development agencies, youth-serving organizations and community-based organizations.

About United Communities

United Communities Southeast Philadelphia is a non-profit agency in the settlement house tradition. Its mission is to work in partnership with its various communities for social and economic justice. The agency strives to build self-sustaining communities through: Advocacy that promotes member participation and leadership; Economic programs for enhancing community development; Social programs supporting individual and family well-being; and Educational Opportunities that advance skill development and knowledge building