

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #8: GREEN JOBS ALLIANCE GRANT PROPOSALS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SUBJECT:

The U.S. Department of Energy has announced the availability of funding through two separate grant programs – “Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program” and the “State Energy Program Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets and Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action.” The Green Jobs Alliance has indicated its intent to apply for funds through both programs and has requested HRPDC support for its proposals.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has recently announced two solicitations for proposals for competitive grants:

- The Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program is designed to promote innovative ways to weatherize homes of low income families. A total of \$30 million is available nationwide on a competitive basis. DOE expects to award 10-15 grants with a maximum funding level of \$3 million. The program is to involve both traditional and nontraditional providers, highly leverage available funds and improve the effectiveness of weatherization programs.
- The State Energy Program is available to states and encourages partnerships to carry out the programs. This competitive program is designed to promote two DOE goals – increased market penetration for whole building retrofits and to increase energy efficiency. These are targeted particularly at the residential and commercial sector. It is expected that DOE will award 10 grants nationwide.

The Green Jobs Alliance is a regional coalition of public and private organizations, created to support “green” economic activity and workforce training for the Hampton Roads region and the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been designated by the Commonwealth as a State Energy Training Partner.

The Alliance has determined that support from the region’s localities, through the HRPDC, will strengthen its proposals to participate in these Department of Energy grant programs. Attached are two resolutions supporting the grant proposals of the Green Jobs Alliance.

Hampton City Councilman Gilliland will brief the Commission on the proposals.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt the resolution supporting the application of the Green Jobs Alliance to the U.S. Department of Energy under the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program.

2. Adopt the resolution supporting the participation of the Green Jobs Alliance in the statewide coalition established by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to pursue funding through the State Energy Program – SEP Grant Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), the lead agency for the State Energy Program grant, has invited the Green Jobs Alliance to represent the Hampton Roads region in a statewide coalition for this grant.

Attachment 8-A

Attachment 8-B

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE GREEN JOBS ALLIANCE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WEATHERIZATION INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) desires to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

WHEREAS, the HRPDC desires to encourage programs which will improve programs and initiatives to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program has issued Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-00000309, CFDA Number: 81.042 Competitive Solicitation which will fund programs to promote innovative ways to weatherize homes of low-income families; and

WHEREAS, the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program is for programs with maximum award value of \$3,000,000 and do not require cost sharing from state or local government; and

WHEREAS, the DOE will only award 10 to 15 grants nationwide making this a highly competitive grant process; and

WHEREAS, the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program specifically seeks to stimulate activities and investments which:

- Include new and non-traditional providers and develop new partnerships including: states and units of local government; non-profit entities such as community development organizations; for-profit entities; institutions of higher education; Indian tribe economic development entities; and, consortia of these entities, examples of which include, but are not limited to, current WAP local weatherization service providers, utility companies, private contractors, industry groups, non-profit organizations, labor unions, community groups, and foundations.
- Highly leverage grant funding in order to significantly enhance the resources available for supporting the program, with the goal of at least 3:1 leveraging from non-federal sources per dollar awarded from this FOA to include building owner contributions, partner contributions, in-kind contributions, project revenues, and state funds;
- Develop revenue streams from efficiency improvements that could further leverage federal funding thus increasing program sustainability after grant monies are exhausted, including but not limited to;

- Revolving loan funds
- Co-lending / loan participation (including first loss positions)
 - Utility on-bill payment and/or financing;
 - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans;
 - Energy efficiency mortgages;
 - The sale of carbon and other offsets;
 - The sale of white tags to meet efficiency mandates;
 - The sale of carbon and other offsets;
 - The sale of efficiencies into forward capacity markets;
- Improve the effectiveness of low-income weatherization through the use of new materials, technologies, behavior-change models, and/or processes;
- Include metrics for improving effectiveness including increasing the number of homes weatherized, reducing cost per weatherized home, increasing energy cost savings per home, increasing jobs created and retained, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide service delivery and behavior-change models (i.e., consumer education) performed outside of WAP for increasing the benefits yielded by the program including, but not limited to:
 - Energy usage benchmarking with feedback, either in-home or online, to the users;
 - Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) and other behavioral change approaches;
 - Engaging volunteers in service delivery (note: applicants proposing an approach with volunteers must be prepared to have proper liability insurance for volunteers and dwellings);
 - Developing innovative buying cooperatives and bulk buying strategies to lower costs of materials;
 - Neighborhood or community approaches, with this funding providing for the retrofit of homes for low-income citizens in those neighborhoods or communities.
 - Operate as a pilot program independently and in parallel with the current local WAP providers and should be replicable in other communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the State Energy Program is to provide leadership to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy through communications and outreach activities, technology deployment, and accessing new partnerships and resources; and

WHEREAS, DOE is seeking partnerships with traditional and non-traditional weatherization providers including: states and units of local government; non-profit entities such as community development organizations; for-profit entities; institutions of higher education; Indian tribe economic development entities; and, consortia of these entities; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance, representing Hampton Roads, has been invited to partner with the Charlottesville/Albemarle Local Energy Alliance (LEAP) for the purposes of this grant application; and

WHEREAS, a broad alliance of organizational partners have been assembled by the Green Jobs Alliance, a legally registered 501c3 not-for-profit meeting the eligibility guidelines of this grant; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance was organized for the specific purpose of seeking and administering federal grant funds for “green” economic activity and workforce training for the Hampton Roads region and Commonwealth of Virginia and has been officially designated by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a State Energy Training Partner as required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance has successfully represented the localities of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in securing DOE Ramp-Up Through Retrofit Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, support of the local governments in the region of the grant application is viewed by DOE as an important element of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as the grant application is due 6/2/10;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission does hereby encourage and support the Green Jobs Alliance’s efforts in pursuing the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 19th day of May 2010.

Bruce C. Goodson, Chairman
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

ATTEST:

Dwight L. Farmer, Executive Director/Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE GREEN JOBS ALLIANCE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE STATE ENERGY PROGRAM COMPETITIVE GRANTS

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) desires to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

WHEREAS, the HRPDC desires to encourage programs which will improve programs and initiatives to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory has issued Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0000251, CFDA Number: 81.041 State Energy Program (SEP) Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets and Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action Competitive Solicitation which will fund programs to advance policies, programs,, and market strategies that accelerate job creations and reduce energy bills while achieving energy and climate security for the nation; and

WHEREAS, the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets are for programs ranging in value from a minimum of \$2,000,000 to a maximum of \$5,000,000 per state and do not require cost sharing from state or local government; and

WHEREAS, the DOE will only award 10 grants nationwide making this a highly competitive grant process; and

WHEREAS, the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets specifically seeks to stimulate activities and investments which can:

- Provide a major increase in market penetration of existing whole-building retrofit activities and/or the establishment of a strong retrofit market in areas with little or no activity;
- Address market barriers that limit whole-building retrofits and requires a minimum target of retrofitting at least 2 percent of the buildings of a defined market annually by 2013;
- Utilize regional strategies;
- Develop new or strengthen existing building retrofit market(s) by creating, enhancing, or expanding replicable programs, activities, organizational structures, and techniques that will transform the market and encourage consumer adoption of energy efficiency and clean energy;

- Employ sound methods for assuring energy savings;
- Collaborate with appropriate organizations such as public utility commissions, power authorities, utilities, local governments, retailers, manufacturers, trade organizations, financial institutions, other States and regional entities;
- Develop strategies that will allow resource leveraging to the greatest possible extent
- Pursue comprehensive programs and strategies that address the range of barriers hindering building retrofits such as; consumer access to information about how a building consumes energy and how it compares to other buildings; developing a qualified workforce to diagnose building performance problems, recommend solutions to those problems, and perform the work necessary to deliver the recommended solutions; and readily available access to funding to pay for the retrofits through a variety of financial mechanisms;
- Develop a comprehensive approach to addressing the market barriers limiting whole-building retrofits with a **target of retrofitting at least 2 percent of the buildings of a defined market annually by 2013** which may include such key elements as:
 - Building performance benchmarking and disclosure
 - Home Performance with ENERGY STAR™
 - Finance programs or strategies that leverage private capital:
 - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
 - Utility On-Bill Financing
 - Energy Savings Performance Contracts
 - Revolving Loan Funds
 - Credit Enhancements such as Loan Loss Reserves and Debt Service Reserves*
 - Other innovative financing mechanisms
 - Financing program(s) that are designed to meet appropriate conforming standards to support sales into secondary financial markets
 - Statewide and/or regional** aggregation of disaggregated retrofit markets
 - Innovative Organizational Structures such as an Energy Efficiency Utility, Power Authority, etc; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the State Energy Program is to provide leadership to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy through communications and outreach activities, technology deployment, and accessing new partnerships and resources; and

WHEREAS, eligible entities include State Energy Offices and partnerships they may form; and,

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance has been invited by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy to represent Hampton Roads for the purposes of this grant application along with other organizations in other regions of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a broad alliance of organizational partners have been assembled by the Green Jobs Alliance, a legally registered 501c3 not-for-profit meeting the eligibility guidelines of this grant; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance was organized for the specific purpose of seeking and administering federal grant funds for “green” economic activity and workforce training for the Hampton Roads region and Commonwealth of Virginia and has been officially designated by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a State Energy Training Partner as required by federal law, and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Alliance has successfully represented the localities of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in securing DOE Ramp-Up Through Retrofit Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, support of the local governments in the region of the grant application is viewed by DOE as an important element of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as the grant application is due May 24, 2010;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission does hereby encourage and support the Green Jobs Alliance’s efforts in pursuing the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets for the benefit of the Hampton Roads region and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 19th day of May 2010.

Bruce C. Goodson, Chairman
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

ATTEST:

Dwight L. Farmer, Executive Director/Secretary