

Community Impact and Regional Equity

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Regional Equity Monitoring Project

a project of B-PEP (Black Political Empowerment Project)

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ARRA Programs Addressed

- JOBS! JOBS! JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!
- Monitoring the use of stimulus funds, green ventures and other economic development initiatives to increase equity and improve quality of life across the state.
- “the people’s monitoring” with an emphasis on training and accessibility. Refine training procedures and monitor to establish baselines, track changes and document results.

Success Stories/Positive Outcomes

- Collaboration Highlights: Pittsburgh Green Innovators, Coordinated Weatherization Campaign + Regional Equity Monitoring Project.
- REMP serves on Board and will be monitoring projects based on ARRA \$ received for project, duration, jobs created, jobs saved, how innovative, # of minorities and women contracts, labor participation and description of population served, benefit and impact on community.)
- ACTION Housing Weatherization Program,(details next slide)
- The Pennsylvania State University , A bid-Atlantic Solar Resource & Training Center
- Other success stories as a result of REMP's request that they be shared for this conference.

Back From The Brink: The Recovery Act One Year Later

ARRA Project Equity Reporting Out

- Description of project: Weatherization Assistance Program (low-income home weatherization service and furnace repair)
- ARRA \$ received for project and duration: projected allocation should be \$15.2 Million over the 30 month period (based upon performance)
- Jobs created/# of minorities and women contracts: 7 new contractors have been brought on (all MWDBEs), each typically consists of 1-2 crews of 3-4 people per crew; and 7 internal positions
- Jobs saved: 22 prior contractors and their crews and numerous internal staff positions
- How innovative?: community-based organization and collaborative efforts are occurring at very high levels with seamless communication and wrap-around for program applications
- Population served: people at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, those with disabilities, priority to those receiving LIHEAP cash and crisis benefits
- Benefit and impact on community: free weatherization services to qualifying applicants (2,200 projected as a result of ARRA funding; as of last week 270 complete applications were in process)

Implementation Challenges/Problems

- Case Study: REMP sent out Right-To-Know Letters to the 43 School Districts in Allegheny County and 130 Municipalities to see what kind of MBWBDBE programs they had. 98% had no such policy.
- What might the challenges and problems be in trying to leverage the Governor's Executive Order based on this reality?

Recommendations for State Action

- Passage of House Bill 2140 which is an outgrowth of Minority, Disadvantaged and Women Business hearings held throughout the state in 2009 and is the culmination of testimony given by disadvantaged, minority and women businesses.
- Replication of Pathways out of Poverty training Grants for green jobs. Especially since we recently found out that Pittsburgh/Allegheny County/Western PA received no funding. Good to see that the Community College of Philadelphia received \$3,184,428 to assist unemployed workers, ex-offenders and veterans in addition to being part of many national grants worth millions of dollars. Lehigh Valley received 4million to assist at-risk youth, veterans and unemployed.
- Others:

Recommendations for Federal Action



What a discussion! REMP's Community Jobs Forum was held January 7 at the Kingsley Center in East Liberty, where ideas poured out from Pittsburgh residents and invited panelists. Our diverse group of participants ranged from activists and organizers, to those who are running traditional job training programs and programs for ex-offenders, to people in technology related professions, to educators and youth. We have prepared our submission to the White House, and will report on our conclusions in next week's eNewsletter. REMP would like to sincerely thank all of those who came out to make the event a success.

[Read the conclusions REMP submitted to the White House](#)

Where You Can Find More Information

Thank You!

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