

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

St. Louis gets \$3.2M in stimulus for green jobs

St. Louis and St. Charles counties are getting \$3.2 million in federal stimulus money to support job-training programs to help dislocated workers enter green industries.

The funding is part of a larger announcement of \$100 million in stimulus money being distributed nationwide for green jobs training, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis said. Of that, \$28 million will support projects in communities hurt by car plant closings, such as **Fenton**, where **Chrysler** closed its plants last year.

In Missouri, the United Auto Workers-Labor Employment and Training Corp. will receive a \$3.2 million grant to assist 430 veterans, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, women and laid-off autoworkers in training for employment in energy efficiency and clean energy sectors.

Participants will complete training in four career pathways: hybrid/electric auto technician, electric auto/truck battery technician, electric motors/devices technician and commercial energy technician. Participants also will receive career assessment, labor market information and job search assistance.

Partnering on the program are St. Louis Community College, St. Charles Community College, Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis Economic Development Council, St. Charles County Economic Development Center, St. Charles County Workforce Investment Board, Regional Collaboration Centers of Fenton and St. Charles Counties, **General Motors** and St. Louis Auto Dealership Association.

This past summer, Missouri opened a **regional transition center** in Fenton to retrain as many as 5,000 autoworkers and suppliers for new jobs.

Missouri also will share a \$5 million Energy Training Partnership grant with five other states to provide training for workers in the sheet metal and air conditioning industries, the Missouri Department of Economic Development said Wednesday.