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## **SKILLWORKS ANNOUNCES GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE \$750,000 to Be Invested to Create and Support Green Jobs**

**May 25, 2010** (Boston, MA) - [SkillWorks](#), the local funders' collaborative that has invested over \$17 million to date to equip area workers and employers with competitive skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, today announced the first job training awards in their new Green Jobs Initiative. The grants will be used to train Boston area residents to become certified Energy Efficiency Auditors, Technicians, and Weatherizers.

"We are pleased to award job training grants to the Asian American Civic Association and the Chinese Progressive Union which will train local workers for higher paying middle skill jobs." Loh-Sze Leung, Director of SkillWorks announced. "The planning grants we made last spring leveraged federal stimulus funds for weatherization improvements in the greater Boston area. These grants will ensure we have trained and certified workers to help businesses and residents meet energy efficiency standards. Over the course of the next three years, we expect to invest \$750,000 to help create and support green jobs in greater Boston."

The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) was awarded \$76,235 to create the Energy Efficiency Technician Apprenticeship Program. Energy Efficiency Technicians combine the skills of an energy auditor with the basic skills of a weatherization worker. "This program will target low-income, unemployed and underemployed residents of Metro Boston," said Chris Albrizio, Green Programs Director. "Participants will receive classroom instruction and extensive on-the-job training to become journeymen energy efficiency technicians. Through the unique arrangement of the apprenticeship program, participants will be working at partner employers and earning wages throughout the entire training program."

The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) was awarded \$35,000 to prepare limited English proficiency workers from Chinatown and the Boston area for weatherization jobs at a living wage with a long-term union career pathway. CPA is a member of the Green Justice Coalition, which recently influenced the state's and the utilities' new \$1.4 billion plan to expand energy efficiency programs across the Commonwealth. The utilities committed to creating several weatherization community mobilization pilots around the state.

"The pilots' unique model links the bundling of weatherization work and job creation with the training and hiring of local residents," said Lydia Lowe, Executive Director of CPA. Chinatown is the first pilot being developed and implemented using this unique model. CPA will serve as the lead agency for the Chinatown Green Collar Pathways Program, and other primary partners include the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 35 and The Aulson Company.

### **SkillWorks Green Jobs Initiative**

SkillWorks will utilize its expertise and collaborative infrastructure in sectoral workforce development to help shape the development of green collar career pathways in Massachusetts. SkillWorks' "Green Jobs Initiative" will:

- support emerging workforce development efforts in "green" industries; and
- ensure access to green collar career pathways by lower skilled, low-income adults.

SkillWorks will achieve these goals by:

- building the capacity of community-based green job training programs;
- building a community of funders to coordinate investments in the green sector;
- engaging in advocacy to ensure green sector policies and public investments foster job creation and are influenced by sound workforce development principles;
- supporting research efforts in order to provide the community with labor market information and best practice models; and
- increasing training opportunities for lower-income, lower-skilled adults that lead to employment in green collar jobs.

[SkillWorks](#) is a ten-year, \$25-million investment partnership among local and national foundations, the City of Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts designed to create opportunities for people to gain skills needed to be successful in the MA economy. SkillWorks does this by investing in training programs, preparing people for and connecting them to post-secondary education, working on public policy efforts to create better pathways to post-secondary training and education, and prioritizing growing sectors in our state's economy. For more information please contact SkillWorks Director Loh-Sze Leung at 617-338-4377, [Loh-Sze.Leung@tbf.org](mailto:Loh-Sze.Leung@tbf.org) or visit [www.skill-works.org](http://www.skill-works.org)

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## **DATA ON GREEN JOB CREATION**

[“An Industry at the Crossroads: Energy Efficiency Employment in Massachusetts”](#)

March 2010, Elena Foshay and Mary Jo Connelly for the Apollo Alliance and Green Justice Coalition

- In January 2010, Massachusetts adopted three-year electric and gas energy efficiency plans, which will invest close to \$1.4 billion to improve commercial and residential energy efficiency over the next three years. (per the Green Communities Act of 2008, Section 116 (b)(3))
- The state and its utilities have made a commitment to reducing energy consumption by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. New energy efficiency programs seek to retrofit the majority of the state's homes and buildings, starting with more than 100,000 residential units and 20,000 commercial and municipal structures over the next 3 years.
- The scale of these investments will dramatically expand the building energy efficiency industry in Massachusetts, providing opportunities for businesses, workers and consumers. The state Department of Energy Resources estimates that energy efficiency investments will create 4,000 green jobs across the Commonwealth. We estimate that the three-year, \$1.4 billion investment in building efficiency has the potential to create more than 23,300 jobs, including 6,000 direct and 8,300 indirect jobs in the construction sector. (Job creation estimates based on: Pollin, R.; Heintz, J.; and Garrett-Peltier, H. *The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy* (Center for American Progress, June 2009). Each job created represents one-year of full-time (40 hour) employment.)
- This is in addition to new construction jobs already being created by energy efficiency investments funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – more than \$220 million in Weatherization Assistance Program, State Energy Program, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds in Massachusetts.
- The United States building energy efficiency market is projected to double in size over the next 20 years. ( Ehrhardt-Martinez, K. and Laitner, J. *The Size of the US Energy Efficiency Market* (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, May 2008)