



For Immediate Release

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Governor Bill Richardson Congratulates Department of Workforce Solutions on Stimulus Award

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today congratulated the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions on receiving \$1.25 million in competitive grant funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The money will be used to develop and conduct a statewide employer survey to gain a better, more accurate picture of green-related workforce needs, and the educational opportunities related to supporting that workforce.

“This award is an important part of our ongoing effort to develop new green jobs and innovations throughout New Mexico’s economy,” Governor Richardson said. “This survey will allow us to better understand our green jobs workforce today, and what is needed to strengthen that workforce and further develop the green economy.”

Green jobs include jobs in areas like renewable energy, biofuels and sustainable agriculture.

Through this grant, the department’s Economic Research and Analysis Bureau, in conjunction with the Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University, will develop and conduct a statewide employer baseline and follow-up survey to gain a better picture of green-related workforce needs. The

department will also partner with the New Mexico Higher Education Department and Public Education Department to assess educational opportunities associated with green jobs.

The research results will be shared with job seekers, educational institutions, businesses, and state agencies and will include the deployment of “Green Recovery Workstations.” These workstations will be available to job seekers in various community locations for access to new software and online services resulting from the grant research.

Job seekers will be able to create and access inventories of current skills and match those skills to green occupations where their skills are transferable, and will be able explore green educational opportunities at institutions throughout the state.

“The information gathered by the grant activities will provide essential information to help stimulate the growth of New Mexico’s new green economy,” said Ken Ortiz, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. “With these grant funds, the department will be able to gain information and insight about the impact of the new green emerging industries and will have the resources to better connect the state’s workforce to green job information.”