

# DOL Critical Sectors Job Quality Grant Tier 1 Program Descriptions

In September 2023, the Employment and Training Administration announced \$16 million in grants to support 12 organizations in 12 states as they pilot strategies to improve job quality and increase the availability of good jobs in the care, climate resiliency, and hospitality sectors.

The Critical Sectors Job Quality Grants Program grants will enable recipients to design and deploy programs aligned with the Good Jobs Principles developed by the Department of Labor and Commerce. These principles will guide employers, local workforce systems, and partner organizations to enhance job quality in their communities.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded 12 DOL Critical Sectors Job Quality grants to the following types of entities:

- Labor Unions and Organizations, Labor-Management Partnerships, and Worker Centers and Organizations (1)
- Workforce Intermediaries (2)
- State and Local Workforce Development Boards (3)
- Education/Training Provider(s) (2)
- National or Community-based Nonprofit Organizations (4)

The Critical Sectors Job Quality Grant has two tiers:

- **Tier 1: Developing New Partnerships and Programs (Planning Grants)**  
To support the formation of worker-centered sector partnerships in local or regional economic areas to design workforce strategies to enhance equity and job quality within the care, climate resiliency, or hospitality sectors.
- **Tier 2: Launching Effective Worker-Centered Sector Strategy Programs (Implementation Grants)**  
To invest in established partnerships that have a proven history of implementing sector strategies and are ready to implement specific worker-centered sector strategies that will improve job quality within the care, climate resiliency, or hospitality sectors.

See a description of each Critical Sectors Job Quality Tier 1 grantee below.

<b>DOL Critical Sectors Job Quality Grant Tier 1 Program Descriptions</b> .....	1
Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board, Inc. (BCWDB), Virginia .....	2
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania/National .....	3
Cincinnati Union Cooperative Initiative (Co-op Cincy), Ohio .....	4
EDvance College, California .....	5
Industrial Development Advantage of East Chicago, Indiana.....	6
Lane Workforce Partnership, Oregon .....	7
Tampa Bay Academy of Hope (TBAH), Florida .....	8

## **Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board, Inc. (BCWDB), Virginia**

**Project Name:** Eastern Shore and Northern Neck Coastal Resiliency Sector Partnership (ESNN-CRSP)

**Award Amount** \$495,878

**Industry Focus** Climate Resiliency

### **Service Area**

Eastern Shore and the Northern Neck areas of Virginia

### **Target Population**

The BCWDB will serve communities and populations in the service area, focusing on rural communities and underserved Black/African American residents.

### **Good Job Principles**

Skills and Career Advancement, Recruitment and Hiring

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will support a strategic assessment of Virginia's emerging coastal climate resiliency sector in the Eastern Shore and Northern Neck regions. The project will

- 1) implement evidence-based sector partnership strategies to understand the landscape of Coastal Resiliency employment and identify barriers to entry and upward mobility,
- 2) assess employer supports needed to improve job quality, including small business and entrepreneurship supports, and
- 3) create a plan to implement initiatives to integrate community supports, worker voices, educational on-ramps to skills building, and barrier removal for underserved, low-income, rural populations.

### **Point of Contact**

[Jacqueline Davis](#), Executive Director

## **Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania/National**

**Project Name:** Cheyney University – Hospitality Career Advancement Collaborative

**Award Amount** \$495,878

**Industry Focus** Hospitality

### **Service Area**

Greater Philadelphia, PA, Camden, NJ, Elkton, MD, and Wilmington, DE regions including the Pennsylvania counties of Buck, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia; New Jersey counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem; Delaware's New Castle County, and Maryland's Cecil County

### **Target Population**

Cheney University will serve Black, Latinx, and other persons from historically marginalized groups.

### **Good Job Principles**

Skills and Career Advancement; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will

- 1) focus on the hospitality sector by planning for the Cheyney University Hospitality Career Advancement Collaborative (CU-HCAC) to create pathways to hospitality management and entrepreneurship through stackable credentials,
- 2) engender hospitality industry knowledge building through an accredited Hospitality, Restaurant, Tourism, and Management degree program,
- 3) provide access to populations preparing to enter the field and are underrepresented in the hospitality industry and
- 4) support strategic partnerships with companies in and adjacent to the hospitality industry.

### **Point of Contact**

[Pamela Keye](#), Chief Social Equity Officer

## **Cincinnati Union Cooperative Initiative (Co-op Cincy), Ohio**

**Project Name:** Creating Good Jobs in Clean Energy and Sustainable Construction

**Award Amount** \$495,816

**Industry Focus** Climate Resiliency

**Service Area** Greater Cincinnati

### **Target Population**

Co-op Cincy will serve individuals from historically marginalized communities, particularly women, people of color, and blue-collar workers.

### **Good Job Principles**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), Empowerment and Representation, Organizational Culture, and Pay

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will design strategies that improve equity and strengthen the workforce in clean energy and sustainable construction jobs.

### **Point of Contact**

[Ellen Vera](#), Co-Director

## **EDvance College, California**

**Project Name:** Advancing Job Quality in Early Childhood Education: EDVance's Comprehensive Approach

**Award Amount** \$495,870

**Industry Focus** Care Sector – Early Childhood Educators

### **Service Area**

California's San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley regions

### **Target Population**

EDvance College will serve historically marginalized populations and students identifying as culturally and racially diverse.

### **Good Job Principles**

Empowerment and Representation and Skills and Career Advancement.

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will build a diverse and well-qualified early childhood education (ECE) workforce in the greater San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley regions of California. To address the urgent need for culturally and racially diverse lead and assistant early childhood educators, EDvance will:

- map existing community ECE resources,
- formalize partnerships with local ECE agencies, employers, and industry groups, and
- recruit and train underrepresented and multilingual early childhood educators, providing them with job-embedded, competency-based, and cost-effective degree pathways.

By offering accessible education opportunities working early childhood educators, EDvance will cultivate opportunities for career growth, higher pay, and improved job security in the critical ECE sector.

### **Point of Contact**

[Lygia Stebbing](#), President

## **Industrial Development Advantage of East Chicago, Indiana**

**Project Name:** East Chicago Sustainable and Renewable Construction Workforce Training Project

**Award Amount** \$495,878

**Industry Focus** Climate Resiliency

### **Service Area**

East Chicago, Indiana. Industrial Development Advantage is headquartered in Ogen, UT.

### **Target Population**

Industrial Development Advantage will serve historically marginalized populations and communities in the city of East Chicago, Indiana, particularly Hispanic and Black individuals.

### **Good Job Principles**

Empowerment and Representation, Recruitment and Hiring, Skills and Career Advancement, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA), and Pay

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will

- 1) establish a strategic partnership to develop a worker-centered sector strategy program in East Chicago, IN, focused on climate resiliency through on-the-job training on sustainable and renewable construction,
- 2) develop a replicable on-the-job (OJT) training platform that supports marginalized populations to improve their skills and acquire good-paying, quality jobs and
- 3) advance union-certified training.

### **Point of Contact**

[Steve Radel](#), President

## Lane Workforce Partnership, Oregon

**Project Name:** Oregon Coast Hospitality Sector Partnership

**Award Amount** \$446,786

**Industry Focus** Hospitality

### **Service Area**

Oregon's Coastal Communities

### **Target Population**

Lane Workforce Partnership will serve residents of rural communities, unemployed and underemployed adults (including Able-bodied Adults without Dependent Children), youth (age 17 and over), immigrants, BIPOC residents, and returning citizens.

### **Good Job Principles**

Recruitment & Hiring, Pay, and Skills and Career Advancement

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will develop the foundation of a sustainable Coastal Hospitality Industry Sector by

- 1) building a cross-regional support team,
- 2) defining the scope of the Oregon Coast hospitality industry,
- 3) convening industry listening sessions and conducting industry surveys,
- 4) conducting a workforce study to understand career advancement opportunities, access to low-barrier jobs, and opportunities for stackable credentials to support promotion opportunities and access to higher pay and
- 5) creating an occupational outlook career pathways report.

### **Point of Contact**

[Cindy Perry](#), Director of Workforce Programs

## **Tampa Bay Academy of Hope (TBAH), Florida**

**Project Name:** Climate Labor Initiative: Maximizing Access to Training and Employment (CLIMATE) Program

**Award Amount** \$495,879

**Industry Focus** Climate Resiliency

### **Service Area**

Florida's Tampa Bay Region (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, and Polk Counties, Florida)

### **Target Population**

TBAH will serve Justice-Involved Individuals, Long-term Unemployed, High School Juniors, Seniors, School Dropouts, Dislocated Workers, and Incumbent Workers.

### **Good Job Principles**

Recruitment and Hiring, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Career Advancement

### **Project Description**

This Tier 1 planning grant will build pathways to good jobs, improve job quality and hiring practices, and increase workplace diversity and inclusion by

- 1) convening a strategic partnership composed of labor unions, employer partners, workforce development organizations, and academic entities,
- 2) facilitate registered apprenticeship programs,
- 3) deliver robust supportive services to enhance training success and
- 4) incorporating workers' diverse voices and their lived experiences to ensure strategies and solutions are grounded in the realities of the workforce.

### **Point of Contact**

[Titania Lamb](#), Executive Director