



Lead Organization: Centers for New Horizons

Program start: June 2011

Target: Energy-efficiency related workforce; particularly trained/untrained unemployed

Centers for New Horizons serves and partners with community residents in their efforts to bring about positive change. Its work strengthens community protective factors including comprehensive workforce development, affordable housing for a range of income groups, effective schools, supportive programs for preschoolers, youth, elders and families, along with viable businesses, improved public transportation, and amenities, such as parks and the arts, that support and nurture health and spirit.

About: Energy Impact Illinois (EI2) aims to create a more robust energy efficiency retrofit market. An efficient retrofit market is often impeded by limitations in the skills of the available workforce, as well as the lack of alignment amongst a variety of workforce preparation and training services. The EI2 workforce development intermediary will address these limitations by: ensuring the workforce needs of employers in the industry are met; ensuring that local workers are prepared for the jobs that are created or changed as the retrofit market grows; and serving as a point of contact amongst employers, workers, and workforce preparation and training providers.

Scope of Services: Centers for New Horizons' applicable activities will include:

- Linking qualified job-seekers to energy efficiency jobs with qualified contractors.
- Ensuring that energy-efficiency training providers prepare potential workers to meet the skill needs of contractors.
- Informing providers that focus on workforce preparation services about how to prepare individuals for entry into training programs.
- Support the alignment of workforce preparation and training programs for energy efficiency jobs with the existing apprenticeship training system for the building trades.
- Support the implementation of quality training programs.
- Coordinate with the contractor outreach and support provider to support the development and delivery of information for trainers, contractors, unions, community organizations and others through the EI2 Information System.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Support the creation of more than 2,000 jobs
- Create a well-trained and capable retrofitting workforce
- Develop a pipeline of workforce training and employment opportunities