



A JOBS FOR THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

MILWAUKEE SOLAR PARTNERSHIP

The Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee convenes the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), Johnson Controls and other employers, to create a pathway into entry-level photovoltaic and solar thermal installation.

To support Milwaukee’s growing renewable energy product manufacturing and technology services industry, the **MILWAUKEE SOLAR PARTNERSHIP** provides intensive classroom and hands-on field training to green the skilled workforce by selecting, training, and preparing Milwaukee’s most adept young adults who lack access to career paths or educational or social resources. The partnership leverages the wide range of assets and leadership within the partnership, including in-kind technical assistance and administrative resources from the Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee. In addition to their occupational training, program completers will earn a Solar Technology Certificate from MATC, and a North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) PV Installer or Solar Thermal Installer Certificate. MATC offers additional technical training opportunities in power engineering and related energy control systems.

Solar Partnership training participants are also supported by MCSC’s AmeriCorps program, which provides additional leverage to the Solar Partnership by granting program participants training wages and AmeriCorps educational awards. The AmeriCorps model aligns well with the Solar Partnership’s training model of linking classroom and soft-skills training to applied learning on real-life projects. Providing an additional career pathway to solar technology manufacturing, the Solar

Lead Agency
Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee

Key Partners
Milwaukee Community Service Corps
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Johnson Controls
Midwest Renewable Energy Association
City of Milwaukee SHINES
Wisconsin Regional Training Partnerships/BIG STEP

Regional Funding Collaborative
Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance

Sector
Renewable electric power and utilities

Training Occupation(s)
Photovoltaic installer, solar thermal installer, renewable power and utilities related professions

Location
Milwaukee

Funding Source
Green Jobs Innovation Fund

Partnership training program also serves as preparation for applying to the sheet-metal registered apprenticeship program. The Solar Partnership coordinates with Johnson Controls and other employers to ensure the Solar Partnership has access to critical knowledge about the energy technology industry’s evolving consumer products and workforce skill needs.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The Milwaukee Solar Partnership aims its recruitment at long-term unemployed or dislocated workers, high school dropouts, veterans, and low- to mid-wage incumbent workers through outreach to nonprofits, One-Stop Centers, and veterans outreach centers. The Solar Partnership screens all candidates for basic reading, math and mechanical aptitude, and physical fitness. The Solar Partnership also attracts potential solar technology training candidates through MAWFA's Workforce Partnership Peer Learning Network, including WRTP/BIG STEP, which creates additional access points for program completers to local skilled-trade unions including the Pipefitters, IBEW, and the Laborers.

The Milwaukee Solar Partnership provides a variety of services to its participants through its primary CBO partner MCSC. MCSC offers ongoing tutoring, soft-skills training, job-seeking and retention skills, case management, and support services. Throughout the training, participants work with a job developer, developing career plans and learning skills such as resume building, interviewing techniques and other career development skills.

MCSC, in consultation with the MREA, instructs participants using the nationally recognized solar industry training standards for photovoltaic and solar thermal installers established by the NABCEP. Through the GreenWays initiative, the Milwaukee Solar Partnership is strengthening the pipeline of workers entering the renewable energy service industry by combining construction, technological, and contextualized basic skills instruction into a comprehensive solar technology training program.

PLANNED OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

The Milwaukee Solar Partnership will serve 90 workers in its occupational training programs. 82 of these participants are expected to complete training and receive NABCEP Certification. 45 will receive a three-credit Solar Technology Certificate from MATC. 71 workers are expected to enter jobs as a result of this training.

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This Milwaukee Solar Partnership receives 37.5 percent of its \$1.2 million funding through the U.S. Department of Labor's Pathways Out of Poverty and Green Jobs Innovation Fund.

Jobs for the Future identifies, develops, and promotes education and workforce strategies that expand opportunity for youth and adults who are struggling to advance in America today. In more than 200 communities across 43 states, JFF improves the pathways leading from high school to college to family-sustaining careers.



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