

**GREATER CINCINNATI REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION TRADES PARTNERSHIP – ANNOUNCES
AWARD OF CONSTRUCTING FUTURES GRANT FOR SOUTHWESTERN OHIO**

Cincinnati, February 15, 2010 – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has awarded a \$998,976 grant, the largest Constructing Futures Grant award in the state, to the Greater Cincinnati Regional Construction Trades Partnership which will provide Pre-Apprenticeship training to low-income, unemployed residents of Southwestern Ohio. This Pre-Apprenticeship training will enable graduates to pursue good paying jobs and careers in the construction industry. This grant is part of the state’s ‘Constructing Futures’ initiative and will serve Ohioans who have historically been underrepresented within the construction industry. The Lead Entity in this project will be the Laborer’s Local 265 JATC, the Fiscal Agent will be Easter Seals Work Resource Center and the Program Manager will be Patricia Popp, Director of Education and Training, Allied Construction Industries. This collaborative effort was formed through the efforts of Janice Urbanik, Director of Construction Career Pathways of the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network.

The Greater Cincinnati Regional Construction Trades Partnership, made up of over fifty local organizations has formed this collaborative to link the marginalized workforce to employment opportunities by providing much needed Pre-Apprenticeship training. Six of the partners (The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Easter Seals Work Resource Center, Butler Tech’s Orientation for Nontraditional Occupations for Women (ONOW), Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, Cincinnati Labor Agency for Social Services (CLASS) and Straight 2 The Heart) will provide services including skill assessments, customized service plans, career guidance and occupational training, so participants will be able to gain the experience and skills needed for long-term employment in the construction industry. Each will provide education tracts in various construction pathways ranging from skilled labor to deconstruction and project administrator training. Additionally various classes will be offered to the participants in sustainable ‘green’ construction so they will be able to seek employment in the growing ‘green’ economy.

Ted Groman, Director of the Workforce One of Clermont County stated “In today’s challenging labor market, our One Stop customers are exploring numerous career paths; including those not traditionally taken. There have been numerous State and Federal initiatives designed to rebuild our infrastructure and economy and Constructing Futures will assist those customers that are interesting in a career in construction.”

Minorities, women, unemployed and low-income Ohioans, dislocated workers (including Veterans) may attend a registration and informational session on the grant and the various programs available, ask questions and enroll to participate in one of the tracks by attending the enrollment event on Monday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Cincinnati Eastgate located at 4501 Eastgate Boulevard, Cincinnati, OH 45245.