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Phila. launching green jobs program

by Athena D. Merritt | Staff Writer

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Beginning next month, the job outlook will begin to look brighter for 250 individuals from some of Philadelphia's poorest communities.

Using a \$3.18 million federal stimulus grant [awarded](#) last month, Community College of Philadelphia will launch a green jobs training program, which will recruit participants from Port Richmond, Kensington and Upper/Lower North Philadelphia. In as little as seven weeks, CCP's Job Ready Training Program will train individuals that are home to neighborhoods estimated to have at least 43,148 unemployed adults, 5,600 to 9,200 ex-offenders, approximately 62,000 high school dropouts and 82,000 disadvantage individuals. Many from the neighborhoods CCP reported lack the basic math and reading skills to succeed in today's workplaces, an issue Urban Industry Initiative said over the summer has left hundreds of jobs unfilled in the city's manufacturing [industry](#). UII, which failed at that time to get funding to launch a foundational skills training program to combat the problem, is on board as partner in CCP's Job Ready Training Program. Energy Coordinating Agency, Educational Data Systems Inc. Pennsylvania CareerLinks Philadelphia, the National Comprehensive Center for Fathers and Local Union 502 of the Ironworkers are also among the partners in the program which was officially unveiled by the college on Thursday.

The program will offer two entry-level training tracks, a green manufacturing which will run 10 weeks and train 150 individuals and construction/weatherization which will run seven weeks and train 100 individuals.

The green manufacturing trainees who successfully complete the 300-hour program will receive an industry-recognized certificate from the college and the Manufacturing Alliance of Philadelphia, as well as a National Career Readiness Certificate endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Trainees who successfully get through the 280 hour construction/weatherization training track will be tested to receive Pennsylvania Labor and Industry certification as installers, CCP reported. Graduates will also have a shot at employment with at least 28 local green manufacturing and weatherization firms, who have agreed to interview/hire students coming out of the program.

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