

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Women in Skilled Trades



Grant Amount: \$2,092,343

Grantee: Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT)

Key Partners: Illinois Departments of Labor, Employment Security, Transportation, and Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, Illinois Community College Board, City Colleges of Chicago, The Builders Association, Construction Industry Service Corporation, Hispanic American Construction Industry Association, Mechanical Contractors Assoc. of Chicago, Federation of Women Contractors, Chicago Building Trades Council, The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois Center for Professional Support Services

Leveraged Amount: \$1,172,398 includes cash and in-kind contributions from CWIT, Illinois Departments of Employment Security, Transportation, and Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, Mechanical Contractors Assoc. of Chicago, local Workforce Investment Boards, employers, and community colleges

Location of Grant Activities: Chicago, IL

Challenge:

Total employment in the construction industry will increase by nearly one million jobs by 2012. However, the industry has difficulty recruiting individuals from non-traditional labor pools, such as women. Further, some entry-level workers lack the basic technical skills needed to advance in the industry.

Addressing the Challenge:

CWIT will launch an outreach campaign to attract women into the construction industry. This campaign will include professional outreach and marketing materials that focus on women, as well as orientation sessions and job fairs that focus on construction industry careers. CWIT and its partners will help women address their barriers to employment through an array of education, training, and support services, such as career planning, placement, and mentoring by women currently working in the industry. Finally, CWIT and its partners will work with One-Stop Career Centers, apprenticeship information centers, and community colleges to enhance their capacity to serve women.

Projected Outcomes:

- Nine thousand two hundred women will gain awareness of career opportunities in construction through orientations and career fairs.
- Seven hundred fifty women will gain acceptance into apprenticeship programs.
- Curriculum for community college classes will be tailored to account for female students.
- Staff at One-Stop Career Centers, apprenticeship information centers, and community colleges will receive training, recruitment materials, assessment tools, participant handbooks, and guides to help them serve women interested in entering the construction industry.

