

Norcross, Frank

From: Advanced Energy Solutions [energyrater@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:06 PM
To: Norcross, Frank
Subject: DOE Invites Public Comment on Recovery Act Weatherization and Retrofit Reporting

Hello Frank,

I wanted to make a comment concerning the program. In the past year, several thousand people across the country have taken educational courses with the hopes of making a new career during this down economy. ie, HERS Rater Certifications thru RESNET, BPI certifications, Weatherization Training programs at colleges, etc etc. The one thing I find odd is this. There were systems in place that allowed the local entities, at least here in Texas, and I suspect across the country, which allowed the agencies overseeing this money for the weatherization, to actually skip any process of allowing new contractors to be involved in the programs. I have been told "we just renewed the guys we had". I have called different agencies across the State and it's the same answer. "We already have our contractors in place." There was never a "vetting process". This clearly restricts and limits any "new" jobs. Sure, they same people who did it the year before can get the money and keep going, but the "new guys" on the block aren't even allowed to participate in the programs. I have found this to be the case in both WAP, ARRA and other programs I am pursuing. It would seem to me if the President is trying to put people back to work, it would start at the local level REQUIRING the agencies to open the doors and have an RFQ put in place to allow these newcomers to enter the process. The Request For Qualifications is the only fair and equitable way to proceed, otherwise, it's business as usual for these entities. **They do not want to be burdened with the process, which is just plain unfair.** I would ask you to look into this and see to it that EVERY organization involved, from Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), State Energy Program (SEP), and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to "do the right thing", and require their administrators from top to bottom to open this channel for job placement. Otherwise, the ones who have been hurting, have spent their time and money getting educated for a new careers will never make it into the mainstream of the money. I write this letter with all due respect to the process. I personally am trying to build a company and hire people who are unemployed, yet all of the money coming down the pike is in a closed process, thereby restricting the newcomers from getting the work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would like to hear what action has been taken to correct this issue. If you are not the person to act on this, please send me the information on the person who can.

Sincerely,
Larry Wallace
President

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