



News

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NEW YORK STATE INITIATES GREEN JOBS TRAINING FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

Commences Weatherization Jobs Training for Children in Juvenile Justice Residential Placement

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) have joined with the New York State Weatherization Directors' Association (NYSWDA) to offer a four-day training program in home weatherization to youth in residential placement.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for youth in residential placement to start learning valuable skills in a field projected to have tremendous job growth over the next couple of years," said OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq. "This is critical to the ongoing transformation of juvenile justice in New York State: identifying those sectors of the economy projected to grow and providing our children with the education and training to fill those jobs so that they can enjoy full citizenship in the community."

Labor Commissioner M. Patricia Smith said: "We expect strong demand for workers with Green job skills, and we're very pleased to be a part of providing that training, especially for young workers. These are jobs with a career ladder, jobs that young people can build a bright future on."

NYSWDA Executive Director Andy Stone said: "It's exciting to see that in working with OCFS, we can provide direct skills training, provide youth with potential opportunity in an emerging market, and conserve energy, which is a national priority, all at the same time. You couldn't ask for a better win-win situation."

Jackson Morris of Environmental Advocates of New York said: "Making our homes and businesses more energy efficient is the easiest way to cut the pollution that is changing our climate and reduce stress on our aging power grid. Weatherization jobs are a great example of how action to conserve energy and help stop global warming will create new opportunities for New Yorkers."

Local county family courts send children to OCFS for residential placement after finding that they committed a criminal act when they were under 16 years of age.

The Weatherization Program is funded by the federal government to improve home energy efficiency and reduce home heating costs for the elderly and working poor, including the disabled and families with young children.

This Weatherization jobs training program will commence at the Allen Residential Center in South Kortright, in Delaware County, on June 9. Youth in the program will learn about basic air sealing, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) health and safety procedures, installation of high-density cellulose insulation, and work practices for dealing safely with lead paint. The program

will also help youth to develop work readiness skills and learn about careers, and can be a stepping stone to advanced training or higher education.

The Office of Children and Family Services will partner with NYSWDA to offer this training at Allen Residential Center at least four times a year.

DOL provided teachers and administrators at Allen with six days of training, which included information on the labor market, workforce philosophy, and how to identify and encourage skills and talents in youth, including developing career plans.

OCFS, in partnership with DOL and various foundations and community-based organizations, is working to get the youth who complete the program into internships and apprenticeships that could lead to jobs in weatherization programs.

Once they land entry-level positions in the weatherization field, these youth may advance to crew chief positions, pre-weatherization and post-weatherization auditor jobs. They also will gain exposure to other career opportunities in the building trades.

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