



# City of Minneapolis

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CPED)

## Employment and Training Program

*Committed to Growing a Competitive Workforce*

### Quarterly Update – Winter 2012



#### Events

**Partners for Youth Conference**  
February 10, 2012

**Teen Job Fair**  
March 24, 2012  
Hennepin County Central Library

**STEP-UP Mock Interviews**  
Minneapolis Convention Center  
April 23 – 26, 2012

**Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting**  
March 20, 2012

For more information on these events or any METP services please contact:  
Mark Brinda  
METP Manager  
612-673-6231



#### STEP-UP in the News

On January 5, 2012, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Hashim Yonis, a former STEP-UP intern, spoke at a White House event to kick off the Obama Administration's new summer-jobs initiative for low-income youth, called **Summer Jobs +**. Summer Jobs + is "a new call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer of 2012." STEP-UP was highlighted as an exceptional model of private sector engagement, non-profit partnership and governmental leadership. See [www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news) for more information.

#### Federal and State Leaders Focus on Jobs

In an interview with the Duluth News Tribune, U.S. Senator Al Franken made the following statement about his priorities upon returning to DC: "One of the first things I'm going to do is get workforce training pumped up, because I see the need for that as I travel around here [Minnesota]."

At the same time that Senator Franken was focusing on job training, Governor Mark Dayton released *A Jobs Plan for Minnesota: Getting Minnesota Back to Work*. Highlights of his plan include: the expansion of FastTRAC, new investments in infrastructure, and a new jobs tax credit. For details of the plan: <http://mn.gov/governor/initiatives/jobs-plan/>

#### Responding to Community and Business Need through Targeted Training

North Minneapolis FastTRAC is off and running. With a \$300,000 grant from the State of Minnesota, residents of North Minneapolis now have access to two new training programs offered through a partnership between the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP), Minneapolis Adult Basic Education, and Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Beginning in early February, FastTRAC Welding will offer classes during the evenings and weekends. FastTRAC Culinary Arts begins in April and will also offer evenings and weekend classes.

#### RENEW Minneapolis to launch spring 2012!

Due to the success of Renewable Energy Network Empowering Workers (RENEW), the federally funded green jobs training program, METP will be extending RENEW by continuing to offer training and job placement services for Minneapolis low-income residents interested in training and careers in the green economy. The proposed start date for RENEW *Minneapolis* is March 1, 2012. Currently, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions is exploring the option of launching a RENEW II project in the city of St. Paul allowing for continuation of this great regional partnership.

#### Business Connection

RENEW's business partner, Applied Energy Innovations (AEI), is a Minneapolis-based mechanical, plumbing and general contracting company specializing in renewable and energy efficient building integration. The RENEW Program provides companies such as AEI with the trained workforce to meet their hiring needs. AEI owner, Dustin Denison, and Director of Operations, Amy Pond, have provided in-depth business consultation to RENEW training partners and project staff. Their professional expertise and input ensured that RENEW's solar site assessor training components and credentialing provides comprehensive training, fully preparing graduates to meet their customer's needs and expectations. AEI also participated in three RENEW-sponsored job fairs. To date, AEI has hired three RENEW training graduates as solar assessors.