



Goodwill Houston

Changing Lives through the Power of Work

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goodwill Industries of Houston Awarded \$500,000 Veterans Employment and Training Grant from U.S. Department of Labor

HOUSTON — The U.S. Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) has awarded Goodwill Industries of Houston a \$500,000 grant to provide veterans with job training to help them succeed in civilian careers. The program is specifically targeted at “recently separated” veterans who have left the service in the last four years — including those returning from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan to a difficult job market. Goodwill Houston is one of only 17 grant recipients throughout the country and the only Goodwill nationwide to receive a new VWIP grant this year.

“No one pays a higher price for our freedom than our veterans, and I am committed to providing them the job training and re-employment assistance they need and deserve,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “These grants will provide our veterans with tools and skills that will ensure they are prepared for the green jobs of today and tomorrow.”

Funds were awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations. These agencies are familiar with the areas and populations to be served and have demonstrated that they can administer effective programs.

Emphasis will be placed on training veterans who are interested in “green jobs” now in the marketplace or expected soon. Fields of employment include green construction and retrofit, energy efficiency and renewable energy, modern electric-power development and clean vehicles. To view more information about this initiative, visit <http://www.doleta.gov> and look for the “green jobs” heading.

The VWIP grants will help veterans from targeted groups overcome employment barriers and ease their transition into unsubsidized jobs. Through this program, veterans receive skills assessments; individual job counseling; labor-market information; classroom or on-the-job training; skills upgrading and retraining; and placement assistance and follow-up services.

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The Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service expects these grants to provide training for more than 3,000 veterans, who may also be eligible for services through other Workforce Investment Act programs for economically disadvantaged or dislocated workers.

Grantees under this program network and coordinate their efforts with various local, state and federal social service providers. More information on the Labor Department's unemployment and re-employment programs for veterans is available at <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>.

“Along with our Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), this grant allows us to give veterans the resources they need for job success,” said Steve Lufburrow, Goodwill Houston President and CEO. “This grant is such an honor for Goodwill Houston. I am so proud of the hard work and the efforts our team puts into making Goodwill Houston a leader in providing veterans services in Greater Houston.”

HVRP is a competitive grant program administered by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the U.S. Department of Labor. It is the first nationwide grant program focused on placing homeless veterans into jobs. Since 2005, Goodwill Houston has enrolled more than 600 individuals in its program and has placed more than 400 in permanent employment.

Through its Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, Job Connection Centers, Academy for Career Development, Goodwill Temporary Services and Charles R. Swain Memorial Contracts Center, Goodwill Houston creates job opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. With a vision of being the premier workforce development resource in greater Houston, based on the excellence of its people and its career services, Goodwill Houston aims to increase its impact in the community by 50 percent, having added 27 new retail stores by the end of 2013. For more information about store locations, programs and services, visit goodwillhouston.org, or call 713-692-6221.