

Subject: Updates NYSERDA's OJT Program

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Workforce Development & Training On-the-Job Training Program Update



NYSERDA is appreciative of the significant stakeholder feedback received on the potential solutions we can advance to help re-start the clean energy economy upon the COVID-19 pandemic subsiding. While on-site work may be on PAUSE, our commitment to New York's climate goals and clean energy workforce remains stronger than ever. We recognize the actions we take now will lay the foundation for a successful restart of our economy as soon as possible. As such, NYSERDA has updated its On-the-Job Training for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology (OJT) Program to offer more flexibility and increased funding opportunities for eligible businesses to hire workers.

Changes to the Program include:

[An increase in available funding](#)

- Available funding increased to \$14 million.
- All incentives, maximum funding amounts (i.e., caps), and COVID-19 specific provisions are subject to change on December 31, 2020.

[New incentive for eligible heat pump positions](#)

- Eligible businesses seeking to hire workers related to heat pump installation, regardless of the number of employees, are eligible for OJT incentives at 75 percent of a new employee's hourly wage for 16 weeks, or 24 weeks if the employee is from a priority population. Businesses will be required to provide a 25 percent cost share.
- This increased reimbursement rate is effective for new eligible heat pump hires with start dates after April 16, 2020.

[Increase and removal of maximum funding amounts \(i.e., caps\)](#)

- Eligible businesses with 100 employees or less, NYSERDA funding is capped at \$150,000 per business for traditional workers, with no maximum cap for any size firm for hiring priority populations.

- Eligible businesses over 100 employees, incentives are only available to hire priority populations, with no maximum cap on the number of individuals from priority populations that they can hire.

Special COVID-19 considerations for existing OJT Contractors

- On a case-by-case basis special considerations may be reviewed and approved by the NYSERDA Project Manager for Contractors impacted by COVID-19.
- Special considerations may include but are not limited to:
 - Full-time OJT hires that transitioned to part-time status may be eligible to continue receiving OJT reimbursement.
 - Contractors may be eligible to rehire OJT hires laid off to complete their OJT contract.
 - Contractors may be eligible to invoice for reimbursement at any time once a person is hired.
 - Contractors may be eligible to hire independent contractors as direct employees under OJT and receive reimbursement

The updated Funding Opportunity, a summary of revisions, and the complete details of program requirements are [available online](#).

Please note, even though on-site non-essential work is paused through Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders, the On-the-Job Training for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology program is accepting applications at this time. NYSERDA will continue to review and approve submitted applications through the regular process established for this program. Any resulting on-site work required will not be able to commence until further guidance is issued by New York State.

Please contact PONOJT@nyserda.ny.gov with any questions.

Your resolve and determination during these difficult days has been truly inspiring and remarkable. While this situation is still evolving, our teams are here to assist you in navigating our programs and any related changes along with providing information about available State and federal resources. To view the latest information including resources and program changes, we encourage you to visit nyserda.ny.gov/ny/COVID-19-Response.

Thank you,

The NYSERDA Workforce Development and Training Team

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