

## **PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY 2011 BUDGET: EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

To prepare workers for good jobs and increase opportunity, the budget includes provisions to enable more states to provide paid family leave to workers, help underserved populations enter emerging industry sectors, and improve workforce data collection. Such measures are needed to adapt to the changing nature of our economy, which now depends upon significant participation from women, and to prepare workers to build an American economy that will successfully compete in the world marketplace of tomorrow.

- The budget proposes a \$50 million **State Paid Leave Fund** within the Department of Labor to provide competitive grants to help states launch paid-leave programs, enabling more workers to take time off without having to choose between caring for their families and receiving a much-needed paycheck. The budget also includes a slight increase in spending for the Women's Bureau, which is the only federal office exclusively concerned with serving and promoting the interests of female workers.
- The budget more than doubles the funding on **green jobs training** from \$40 million to \$85 million, an initiative which includes helping underserved populations move into green careers. The funds will be used to award approximately 40-50 grants to train an expected 14,110 participants. However, the proposed budget fails to address needed increases in job training programs for women in nontraditional occupations, as the funding for the **Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act** remains flat at \$1 million. This program funds projects that improve the recruitment, selection, training, employment, and retention of women in the construction industry, and the emerging green industries and occupations.
- The budget provides an increase of \$1.25 million for the **Workforce Data Quality Initiative** (WDQI), which provides resources for state workforce agencies to build longitudinal data systems that match workforce data with education data. The development of comprehensive data systems which link demographic information, high school transcripts, college transcripts, and quarterly wage data, can provide valuable information to policymakers and others about the performance of education and workforce development programs and training providers.