

Grants

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Department of Energy Awards \$485,000 Grant to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Community Reuse Organization

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Energy has awarded \$485,000 in the form of three competitive grants to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI). SODI is the community reuse organization (CRO) for the department's Portsmouth Site.

The SODI applied for funding from the department's Office of Worker and Community Transition in the form of three competitive grants. Each CRO can apply for funds under the Small Capital Program (small cap) up to \$200,000 and/or the Large Capital Program (large cap) up to one million dollars.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with SODI and other community reuse organizations around the country, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

SODI applied for three small cap grants. The first grant for \$200,000 will fund two components of the Enterprise Training and Development Program: small business training and technical assistance, and the establishment of a small business loan fund. The loan fund is targeted toward dislocated workers and community residents of the four-county area to have the opportunity to apply for business loans. The second grant in the amount of \$200,000 will be used for infrastructure improvements to the Gateway Industrial Park. The last grant in the amount of \$85,000 will be used for infrastructure improvements to expand Zahns Corner a 1,000 acre industrial park near Piketon, Ohio, that should provide employment for 400 to 600 people over the next five years.
