

# Grants

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## **\$300,000 Block Grant Awarded to Tri-City Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC)**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Tri-City Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC) to assist in economic development efforts.

"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 the Tri-City Industrial Development Council and other community reuse organizations around the country to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

The grant will provide \$225,000 for program administration and \$75,000 toward the Community Image Campaign. The Community Image Campaign will involve a media strategy that focuses on identifying and working with targeted trade and travel journalists to showcase the assets of the Tri-Cities area to industry leaders and encourage them to consider the Tri-Cities area for new plant development and business expansion.

In 1994, the economic development organizations surrounding the Hanford site designated TRIDEC as the Hanford Community Reuse Organization (CRO). A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

TRIDEC's goal is to assist the effected communities for the ultimate closure of the Hanford facility that has served as the primary employment source for more than 50 years. This goal will be accomplished through the redeployment of the highly skilled, well-trained and educated workforce by identifying and implementing programs that will develop into possible job opportunities for displaced Hanford Site Workers.

The Energy Department and the TRIDEC have created or retained 2,119 new economy jobs, and estimate that 4,607 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

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