



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OIC of South Florida receives grant from the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

**Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OICSFL) receives major grant from the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration for the Training to Work 2 Program.**

**Ft. Lauderdale, Florida** – June 26, 2014 – Newton B. Sanon, President and CEO of Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OICSFL), a leading provider of community-based job skills training, workforce development and placement services announced today that OICSFL has received an award of nearly \$2 million dollars for the Training to Work 2 initiative, one of 17 grants awarded nationally and the only one awarded through this initiative in the State of Florida. Mr. Sanon stated, "This program will provide scholarships that will pay for vocational skills training that leads to industry recognized credentials, mentoring, substance abuse services, support and guidance and job placement for those about to reintegrate to the community from residential re-entry centers in Miami Dade County. We look forward to what we know will provide these individuals with an opportunity to not only earn a vocational certification, but will provide them with a pathway to prosperity, for them and their families, that leads to self-sufficiency as productive members of society". The Training to Work 2 initiative is geared for the Miami-Dade area and will expand the current program being offered for Broward County.

OICSFL has a long history in South Florida providing employment-focused services, including occupational training that leads to industry recognized credentials in demand industries. The program will develop the participant's skills and provide employment opportunities, in order to break the cycle of recidivism. Including components of workforce development activities, training, education, case management, mentoring and follow-up services will help participants in their long-term success.

According to the news release from the DOL, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez stated, "Today's federal grants will continue to build on this success by expanding services to even more people who want to make a successful transition back into their communities."

OIC as an organization is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year as a leader in workforce development and OICSFL participated at the OIC 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, June 12 – 15, 2014. Highlights of the event were keynote speaker Al Sharpton, a longtime supporter of Reverend Leon Sullivan-founder of OIC of America and Congressman John Lewis a long time civil rights pioneer who was also in attendance and received the Rev. Leon Sullivan Lifetime Achievement Award.

**About** Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OICSFL)

Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OICSFL) who is led by Board Chairman, Attorney W. George Allen is a leader in workforce education and assimilation into the community at large for South Florida and was instrumental in securing the 2008 National Honor of Hope Award from the White House. OIC of South Florida has been recognized as the leader in community education for developing job skills and employment readiness for the under-served in our community. Reaching out to the unemployed, under-employed, persons with transgressions and at risk youth, OIC of South Florida makes a difference where it counts; in our community and with our business leaders to develop employment readiness, green jobs training and life skills training. OIC of South Florida believes and lives by the motto of "Helping People Help Themselves".