



OIC-SFL Awarded Strengthening Working Families Grant to Improve Parent Access to Skills Training!

OIC of South Florida is one of only 14 partnerships across the country to receive a U.S. Department of Labor grant as a part of the **Strengthening Working Families Initiative**. The \$4 million grant (\$1 million a year for 4 years), will be used to help low- to middle -skilled parents gain access to training and education so that they can better compete for jobs in existing and emerging industries. Grants under this program must focus on preparing and placing individuals into jobs within occupations for which H-1B visas have been certified. The grant also includes an important provision to provide quality, affordable child care and other services to support participation in training.

The Strengthening Working Families Initiative is designed to help strengthen and support public-private partnerships devoted to helping parents advance in their careers. OIC-SFL is pleased to collaborate with the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Jack & Jill Children's Center, CareerSource Broward, Broward College, ICF International, and several employers. The OIC-SFL program, named LIFT (Leveraging Intelligence-Focused Training), will provide training in IT and Advanced Manufacturing sectors to uplift and support 400 working Broward County families. Newton Sanon, President & CEO of OIC of South Florida, cited that "this funding is truly an opportunity for OIC to address this mission critical need to up-skill

the workforce and equip working families with the in demand training needed to increase their family income and support their elevation to the middle class."

Participants in programs funded by this grant must be custodial parents, legal guardians, foster parents, or others standing in place of the parent with at least one dependent. "Caring for children and being responsible parents should not be obstacles for working families seeking to compete for better-paying jobs," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "The grants we awarded will help more working parents find affordable, high-quality child care while training for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

For more information about this opportunity, visit www.OICSFL.org or write to info@oicsfl.org.

About Opportunities Industrialization Centers of South Florida

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of South Florida (OIC-SFL) is a community-based workforce development, education and training organization that prepares individuals for the world of work by reducing barriers to employment, providing comprehensive vocational skills training and fostering youth aspirations through prevention and intervention strategies that support positive youth development and strengthen families.

To date, over \$40 million dollars have been secured to serve the South Florida community. Since 2001, OIC of South Florida has placed over 6000 community residents into high-demand occupations and serves over 4500 youth annually. Our goal is give everyone the opportunity to realize their full potential; to offer a "Hand UP" not a hand out.

For more information, visit www.OICSFL.org. Interviews and Media Coverage are available upon request. MEDIA CONTACT: Arlene L. Connelly, Director of Communications & Strategic Partnerships, aconnelly@oicsfl.org

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OICSFL.ORG houses an archive of short videos highlighting our work with adults and youth in the community.

[To view the videos, click here or on the photo above.](#)