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## In Iowa, Green Jobs for a Good Cause

by Andrew on January 11, 2011

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A recent article published in the Des Moines Register by journalist Donnelle Eller has indicated that Spectrum Resources, a group based out of Des Moines that focuses on training groups of individuals such as former inmates and others for whom it is difficult to find [jobs](#), has received a quarter-million dollar grant that will assist it in the development of a center focused solely on the propagation of essential [green job](#) skills, chiefly in regard to fiber optics and [solar energy](#) technologies.

The article states that the chief executive of Spectrum Resources, Jerald Brantley, has indicated that the funding was secured from the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based organization which itself received a \$10 million grant from the federal government to “help groups provide services to disadvantaged youth and adults.” According to Eller, Alan Curtis, President of the Foundation, claims the money will go to “20 programs across the nation that provide services that range from mentoring to after-school safe havens.”

Spectrum Resources, which provides services to adults that face obstacles in their process of obtaining and sustaining a [job](#), was conceived in 1995. Their clients reportedly not only include inmates but high school dropouts and those who struggle with substance abuse.

Jerald Brantley offered optimistic words regarding the Milton S. Eisenhower’s transfer of funds to Spectrum Resources. “It’s hard or a parent to concentrate on a [job](#) if he’s worried about where his kids will sleep or what they’ll eat,” Eller quotes Brantley as saying. “We want people to deal with their baggage so they can keep their job.” Eller also notes that “a national study” has indicated that offenders who are able to be recruited by [employers](#) within half a year after their release from incarceration are 2.5 percent less likely to eventually become imprisoned again.

For more information, and to read the complete article in the Des Moines Register, please visit:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110108/BUSINESS/101080316/-1/NEWS04/-250-000-grant-a-boost-for-green-jobs-training>

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