

Lyte Solar Training Program

Lessons Learned



GreenTown Conference - September 30, 2020





Chicago-based **OAI** is a nationally recognized pioneer in workforce development. Our work opens career pathways; fuels business success; promotes health, safety, and the environment; and supports community development. For more than 40 years, we've been delivering real economic benefit to individuals, employers, and communities across the country.

www.oaiinc.org



Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)

Senate Bill 2814 is one of the most significant pieces of energy legislation ever to pass the Illinois General Assembly. It was passed during the December 2016 Session.

Stimulate job creation with new investments in energy efficiency, renewables, and energy innovation

Enhance Illinois' position as a leader in the clean energy economy, attracting investment and new companies to Illinois

Preserve Illinois' low energy rates for residents and businesses

Overview

OAI aims to train 160 low-income students including returning citizens, minorities, current and former foster children, women and veterans living in and around environmental justice communities in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for solar employment generated by the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) over the 4-year period (2018 – 2021).



ComEd Solar Consortium



Goals (2018 – 2021)

OAI will offer a total of 8 cycles of training to cohorts of 20 students each to reach the goal of training 160 students over a four-year period.

Outreach and Recruitment #	# Selected to participate in Tryouts	Participants Enrolled in the Program	Graduates Completing Program	Graduates Placed in Employment
1300	780	160	136 (85%)	116 (85%)

Accomplishments

(as of 9/22/20)

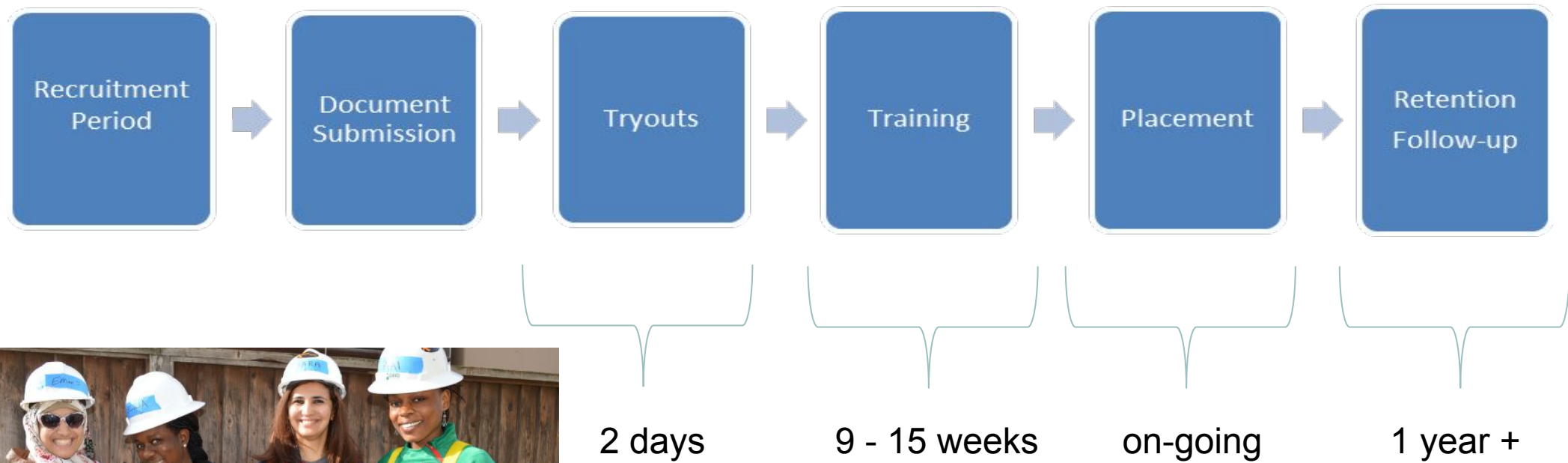
OAI has offered 7 cycles of training to a total of 136 students over the past three years.

Outreach and Recruitment #	# Selected to participate in Tryouts	Participants Enrolled in the Program	Graduates Completing Program	Graduates Placed in Employment
705	275	154	136 (88%)	117 (86%)

Goals (2018-2021):

Outreach and Recruitment #	# Selected to participate in Tryouts	Participants Enrolled in the Program	Graduates Completing Program	Graduates Placed in Solar-related Positions
1300	780	160	136 (85%)	116 (85%)

Implementation Flow



Career Guidance and Power Skills Training

- Non-technical courses include: financial empowerment, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, critical thinking, fitness and nutrition, time and stress management, goal setting, and self-esteem.
- Career Guidance includes: resume building, interviewing, building relationships, individual employment plan development, and overcoming ex-offender employment barriers.
- Power Skills courses also include: Environmental Literacy, Computer Literacy, Industry Math, and Industry Spanish.
- A minimum of **88 hours** of training is offered to each trainee.

Career-Specific Technical Training

- Solar Installer: Electricity Basics, Solar Energy Fundamentals, PV Module Fundamentals, System Components, Site Assessment & Evaluation, PV System Sizing Principles, PV System Electrical Design, PV System Mechanical Design, Performance Analysis, Maintenance and Troubleshooting
- MREA Site PV Solar Site Assessor,
- Basic Carpentry, First Aid/CPR, OSHA 10-hour, OSHA Fall Protection, HAZWOPER 40-hour, and Forklift Operations.
- This component includes classroom and hands-on lab training totaling approximately **232 hours**.



Outputs

- Provide career guidance and placement of all graduates into an initial job.
- Track and conduct follow-up of all participants for one year beyond the end of each training cohort.
- Conduct training that applies current thinking in adult education principles and methods—blended student-centered learning, participatory and cooperative learning, hands-on exercises and experiential learning.
- Provide curricula that includes two components: Career Guidance/ Power Skills Training and Career-Specific Technical Training.
- Prepare students for entry-level employment as a designer, installer, troubleshooter, and maintenance technician for solar-photovoltaic power systems.
- Prepare students to perform successfully on the NABCEP PV Associate Exam.



Photovoltaic Site
Assessment Certificate

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Lessons Learned

- Community Engagement: marketing/education, combating miseducation and distrust
- The jobs **MUST** be there: establish projects, bidding processes in a timely fashion





Thank you!

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Cynthia Myers, Solar Installer, WeThink Electric



