



## Press Release

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### **Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development awarded \$700,000 jobs & business development grant**

Fresno, CA- [Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development](#) (FWCED) officially announced their partnership with [Unlimited Energy](#) after being awarded a \$700,000 federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)- Office of Community Service on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at the FWCED Office.

The Community Service Block Grant Program under the DHHS, provides funding to community non-profits for a two-fold purpose: (1) assist low-income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients in receiving workforce training and employment and (2) provide technical and financial support for emerging businesses. FWCED has established a partnership with **the Fresno County's Department of Employment & Temporary Assistance (DETA)** for referrals to the business partner of the grant-Unlimited Energy. The \$1.4 million program will use the grant and matching funds to provide Unlimited Energy technical assistance toward employing **73 residents** from the community in the manufacturing, installation and sale of solar panels over the next three (3) years. These living wage jobs will include advancement opportunities in a field that is expected to produce 1500 jobs in the San Joaquin Valley in the next few years according a report by The California Public Interest Research Group Charitable Trust.

"The idea is to get our residents up the economic ladder while tapping in the growing industry of renewable energy" said Keith Kelley, CEO of FWCED.

During the press conference FWCED thanked those who wrote letters of support for the grant including Congressman Jim Costa, CA Assemblymember Juan Arambula, Mayor Alan Autry and Councilmember Cynthia Sterling. Also Julie Hornback, Director of Fresno County's DETA and Tommie Nellon, CEO of Unlimited Energy spoke to the value of the nonprofit-private-government partnership.

**Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development** (FWCED) is a nonprofit community development corporation striving to improve the physical and socio-economic conditions of southwest Fresno. This is achieved through advocacy and with programs in housing, employment and business development. [www.fwced.org](http://www.fwced.org)

**Unlimited Energy**, a local minority-owned contractor is a lead provider of solar services for over two decades that has installed over 2 million square unit of solar panels. In addition to end user products, UE has pioneered a solar panel mounting system called Sola-Rac, which improves power output, has been used in some of California's largest commercial solar energy systems. <http://www.unlimited-energy.com/>

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