



BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN NO LONGER BE LOST TO VIOLENCE AND POVERTY.
TRUTH, TRUST & TRANSFORMATION

News Release

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Roca Wins \$2.3Million Federal “Pathways out of Poverty” Grant

Roca is only winner of these federal funds in MA; grant will fund green jobs training opportunities for very high-risk young people.

(Chelsea, MA) Roca announced today it won a \$2.3Million grant from The US Department of Labor, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As the sole recipient in MA of this “Pathways Out of Poverty” grant—as the group of funding awards is known— Roca will launch 3G Jobs! (“**From Green Gangs to Green Jobs**”). Based on Roca’s nationally recognized Intervention Model for Very High Risk Youth, 3G Jobs! is a road toward economic self sufficiency through a unique, green pathway out of poverty.

“What is really exciting about the Pathways Out of Poverty award is the recognition and belief that the young people who have a hard time showing up, can learn to work and succeed in green jobs,” said Molly Baldwin, founder and Executive Director of Roca. “This funding allows Roca identify 225 high risk young people, who may not know that they are ready, and get them ready and get them working.”

3GJobs! is designed to help our most high-risk young people change the negative behaviors that keep them from getting and retaining employment and help them shift their life trajectories. 3G Jobs! focuses on serving highly disengaged young people between 18 and 24 years of age in Chelsea and Revere, MA. Of those served, 86% have dropped out of school or are on the verge; 47% are young parents; and 46% are street, gang, or court/systems involved. 3G Jobs! will prepare participants in green industries including: energy efficient building construction and retrofit industry; energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial or industrial sectors; manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials; and, green jobs that clean and/or enhance the environment.

"These Pathways Out of Poverty grants will help workers in disadvantaged communities gain access to the good, safe and prosperous jobs of the 21st century green economy," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Green jobs present tremendous opportunities for people who have the



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core skills and competencies needed in such well-paying and rapidly growing industries as energy efficiency and renewable energy."

Through the 38 grants awards announced by the Department of Labor, targeted populations will receive recruitment and referral services; basic skills, work-readiness and occupational skills training; supportive services to help overcome barriers to employment; and other services at times and locations that are easily accessible. Through these programs, participants will receive certifications and on-the-job training that will lead to employment.

Since 1988, Roca has helped more than 15,000 disadvantaged and disengaged young people make positive, profound changes in their lives, creating a **nationally acclaimed model of Transformational Relationships (TR)** as a vehicle for youth development, and pioneering effective local, regional, and national relationships with government, state, religious, health, and community partners. Roca's youth transitional employment model has been touted as a ***national best practice*** by many governments, advocates and services providers, and has been sought after both nationally and internationally for its intervention model. Over the past three years, Roca has become increasingly skilled at getting participants (who are disadvantaged individuals within areas of high poverty, unemployed individuals, high school dropouts and individuals with a criminal record) ready for work by developing a pre-vocational and educational curriculum and implementing an evidence-based pathway model to achieve sustained behavioral change and acquire entry-level job work skills.

Roca is an outcomes driven organization that helps **very** high risk young people ages 14 – 24 get out of violence and poverty. Roca's innovative Intervention Model for Very High Risk Youth uses long-term relationships, education and employment programming, and organizational partnerships to achieve sustainable individual and community change. For more information about Roca visit www.rocainc.org.

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