

# PMI Educational Foundation

## Foundation's Grants Equip PM Ready Workforce Worldwide

The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) awards grants to high-quality nonprofits to deliver project management training that helps meet workforce demands in a globally competitive society. The foundation invests in initiatives that enable unemployed and underemployed populations to acquire the skills necessary to ensure job placement and move toward self-sufficiency. This grantmaking strategy allows PMIEF to play a pivotal role in closing skill gaps across an array of industries as the foundation showcases the indisputable value of project management.

The foundation's PM Ready Workforce grants commenced in 2017 and are already empowering people worldwide with the project management competencies the 21st century necessitates.

### PMIEF—114th Partnership Philadelphia Workforce Readiness Initiative

PMIEF awarded US\$100,000 to the 114th Partnership in 2017 to integrate project management into its Spark 101, a program that delivers real-world career challenges through both in-person and video formats. Thanks to the grant, the organization is collaborating with Enon Coulter Community Development Corporation to create a new Spark 101 video and accompanying lesson plans. In addition, it will integrate project management into five previously developed Spark 101

videos and training content. The initiative leverages PMIEF's no-cost educational resources, including *Careers in Project Management* and *Project Management Skills for Life*®.

The grant-funded video will be an interactive, project management-rich case study that features Bithenergy, an alternative and clean energy company in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The video and related lesson plans will be central to a two-week workforce readiness program expected to reach 100 unemployed and underemployed young adults age 16 to 24 during its pilot.

"PMIEF's generous grant to the 114th Partnership enables us to equip young adults with the project management skills today's employers demand," says Tiffany Godbout Williams, the organization's vice president of strategic alliances. "The new and enhanced content the grant funds us to develop will support our efforts to strengthen Philadelphia's

workforce, even as we explore how best the content can support other communities across the United States."

### The PMIEF—CARE USA Initiative for Economic Recovery for Earthquake-Affected Producers and Entrepreneurs in Ecuador

A 2017 grant to CARE USA scales up its previously piloted business and finance training activities in Ecuador and integrates project management into them. The organization is leveraging PMIEF's *Project Management Skills for Life* for this initiative, which targets women in the cantons of Jama and San Vicente following the country's catastrophic earthquake in 2016. It engages associations of women in design thinking to bring craft and agricultural projects to market while promoting tourism and sustainable economic development.

Although CARE USA expected this grant to reach 500 women representing 15 associations, it is presently reaching some 540 women representing 18 associations due to the strong interest it has generated. Mirian Leonor Vera, the legal representative of a textile production association, explains why: "Participating in the PMIEF and CARE USA training is very important for us because we are learning more and more, like what it means to have sustainable incomes and not lose money." Victoria Castro Martinez, who represents Asocion de Produccion Agricola Tabuga, further discusses the impact of PMIEF's US\$175,000 grant on women's lives: "It has given us a voice and makes us more productive and proactive,"



Corey Culbreath, PMP, director of energy information services at Bithenergy, records a segment for the video case study.



*Mirian Leonor Vera helps lead a women's textile production association in Ecuador.*

she says. "We develop the skills and qualities necessary for greater self-confidence. Including women in [Ecuador's] economic reactivation is key since women promote the local economy."

The governments of Jama and San Vicente aid the associations by offering operational guidance and providing marketing spaces for the sale of goods. Several nongovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme also helped assess and select the participating associations. CARE USA will eventually identify, fund and

monitor the progress of the most feasible income-generating activities. Concurrently, it will market opportunities to investors who can support them, including village savings and loans associations that can advance solidarity-based economics.

### Women's Livelihood Enhancement and Advancement Using Project Management

The foundation's most recent PM Ready Workforce grant funds Pratham Education Foundation to build the project management capabilities of unemployed and underemployed women in India age 18 to 30. The US\$100,000 initiative delivers an intensive training program to better enable the workforce readiness and job retention of those who reside in the country's rural villages and urban slums, thereby creating a pathway out of poverty. Pratham will develop 50 one-hour, open-source, project management-rich modules in Hindi, Marathi and Telegu to integrate into its existing vocational and career awareness training curricula. It will leverage various PMIEF no-cost educational resources such as *Foundational Guide – Project Management for Learning* and *Project Management Skills for Life* for content creation.

Pratham expects to reach 3,000 women, who will participate in training



*Pratham will deliver project management training to young women in India to help them enter the workforce.*

programs at the organization's Health-care and Beauty & Wellness training centers across the country. It not only expects to place at least 80 percent of them in well-paying, entry-level jobs, but also to help a small contingent launch their own microenterprise like a beauty salon. Furthermore, Pratham will monitor the women's on-the-job experiences and offer ongoing support through its "Women at Work" alumnae cohorts.

"Women's participation in India's workforce has significantly declined over the past decade," says Medha Uniyal, Pratham's program director. "In a world in which women truly do hold up half the sky, integrating project management fundamentals into our training will better permit us to increase women's recruitment for—and retention of—jobs India's employers wish to fill. It will also help Pratham better ensure women's career advancement and build their entrepreneurial capabilities."

For more information about PMIEF's no-cost educational resources like those that support these innovative PM Ready Workforce grants, visit [pmief.org](http://pmief.org).