



MEDIA RELEASE
*Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development*

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Contact: Milissa Reiersen
(615) 741-2257

GOVERNOR AWARDS COCKE CO. COMPANY JOB TRAINING GRANT
AMERICAN APPLIANCE PRODUCTS AWARDED \$24,700

NASHVILLE – Governor Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James Neeley have awarded \$24,700 to American Appliance Products in Newport, Tenn. Incumbent Worker Training grants assist existing employers with training needs associated with skills upgrades for their employees. Over the past three years, Incumbent Worker Training grants have totaled more than \$5.7 million to assist more than 22,000 employees.

"With the current economy, job training is essential to keep employees and companies competitive," said Governor Bredesen. "Our goal is to keep jobs in Tennessee and upgrade the skills of our workers."

"The Incumbent Worker Grants help companies invest in the future of their workers," said Commissioner Neeley. "I am pleased to award this grant to American Appliance Products."

"I commend Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Neeley for awarding this grant in Cocke County," said Senator Steve Southerland.

"The Incumbent Worker Grants are a good tool to keep employers and workers up to date on the latest skills training," said Representative Eddie Yokley.

Walters State Community College played a key role in awarding the grant to American Appliance Products.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the Incumbent Worker Training program. The program has been structured to be flexible to meet the business's training objectives. The business may use public, private, or its own in-house training provider based on the nature of the training.

The following criteria must be met to qualify for the Incumbent Worker Training Program. Employers must be in operation in Tennessee for at least one year prior to application date. Employers must have at least five full-time employees, demonstrate financial viability and be current on all state tax obligations. Funding priority is given to businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant layoff avoidance strategy and represent a significant upgrade of skills.

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220 FRENCH LANDING DRIVE • NASHVILLE, TN 37243 • 615.741.2257