

## **HRA to Place Clients in Green Jobs**

Rising unemployment and an increasingly threatened environment are two of the biggest problems facing our nation, but they may have a common solution. The City, State and Federal Government are all working hard to jump-start environmentally friendly 'green' industries, and HRA's Family Independence Administration (FIA) is no exception. FIA recently received a \$3.5 million dollar subsidy from the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to find jobs for our clients in fast-growing green industries. HRA clients will have the chance to work in areas like recycling, bio-diesel and energy-efficiency auditing.

Green jobs are a high priority now for New York and the nation. Both private industry and government see green industries as a way to help our troubled economy and reduce pollution at the same time. Now, thanks to this subsidy, HRA clients will be able to take part in a field that many hope will transform our future.

"These jobs require a bit more training up-front," said Seth Diamond, Executive Deputy Commissioner of FIA, "but they pay well, and the industry is poised to take off." In addition to the private sector, the green jobs subsidy includes City jobs in the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Sanitation, and the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation. Private sector jobs will be available through the BEGIN program, Back to Work and HRA partner organization Seedco.

"This is a great opportunity to assist our participants in getting involved in this growing field," said Mr. Diamond. "If we can help our clients take part in this, we'll have helped make a big difference in their lives."