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## UMTA FUNDS OIC TRAINING FOR MINORITY TRANSIT WORKERS

A training program designed to assist under-utilized and unemployed minority transit workers in Detroit and New Orleans was announced today by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

UMTA is providing \$1.2 million for two years to the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc. (OIC) to conduct pre-vocational and bus maintenance training programs. The pre-training will include language and reading skills, the roles and responsibilities of vehicle maintenance workers in transit operations and job-seeking skills.

Students completing the pre-training phase move into the bus maintenance training program and receive instruction in engine repair; cooling, braking, transmission and air conditioning systems; interior and exterior bus maintenance; and work place rules and conduct.

OIC is a Philadelphia-based, minority-owned national community service organization specializing in enhancing employment opportunities for minority and economically disadvantaged persons.

The training will take place at the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) in Detroit, Michigan, and the New Orleans Public Service Inc. (NOPSI) beginning this summer. UMTA expects this program to train 200 persons per year.

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UMTA Administrator Ralph L. Stanley said, "This program exemplifies our efforts to improve the opportunities available to minorities and other economically disadvantaged persons. We require our grantees to utilize minority contractors and, with this program, we hope to improve the employment prospects in the bus maintenance field."

For more information about this program, contact:

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