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Jobs Program in city announced

By Sharon Waters
Staff Writer

New Brunswick: A new program to recruit and help place 25 city residents in New Brunswick union construction jobs was announced yesterday.

The New Beginnings program is a collaboration of the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Development Corp.

The 4-week program is open only to New Brunswick women and members of racial minorities, said Civic League President C. Roy Epps.

New Beginnings provides enhanced preparation for jobs, support services and job placement assistance, said Epps. It includes individual service plans tailored to each participant and follow-up evaluation over one year to help them sustain new careers in construction trades, he said.

The Civic League, and Epps, has been involved in New Brunswick's revitalization for decades. Epps said one of his goals all along has been to have city residents involved in the revitalization.

"One of the most visible places is on the construction site," said Epps. "(The program) doesn't solve all the issues, but it is a beginning and that's why we call it New Beginnings."

Applications for the program will be available from the Civic League beginning July 15. More information is available by calling the Civic League at (732) 247-9066.

Participants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma and be drug-free, said Epps. They should already have some construction experience, he said.

Devco will provide \$100,000 in funding for the program.

"This is an important step not only for Devco and the Civic League, but for the community and, we hope, a program that can serve as a model for economic inclusion and expansion of job opportunities throughout New Jersey," said Devco President Christopher J. Paladino.

Several construction companies working in New Brunswick have partnered with Devco to provide job placement opportunities for New Beginnings participants.

The Middlesex County Building and Construction Trades Council will welcome the program's participants to its ranks of union workers throughout the construction industry in the county, said the council's president John Wade.

Mayor Jim Cahill called the program an "important next step as we move ahead with new initiatives to revitalize and strengthen our city."