

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mayor Sinnott is Pleased to Announce the Next *Sherwin Williams Home Work Painting Program* is Coming to Erie**

The Home Work Program trains inner-city residents for jobs in the professional painting-contracting field. The program, which first began in 2004 in Tampa, Florida, provides a 10-day training course free to unemployed or underemployed individuals, with preference given to Housing Authority residents. The course includes a combination of classroom and on-the-job training. Graduates are also provided with Sherwin-Williams' certification and the equipment and supplies necessary to immediately start working.

Mayor Sinnott is pleased to announce already **31** individuals have completed the first two courses, received certification.

Through this program hundreds of adults across the United States in cities like San Francisco, Baltimore, New York, and Washington, D.C., have learned painting skills and health issues like safety, mold awareness and lead-safe practices. The program touts an impressive job placement rate of 70 percent, and has seen many graduates go on to start their own paint contracting companies.

With help from the Housing Authority of Erie, the Quality of Life Learning Center, and the IU5, job developers helped applicants gain acceptance into the program.

The Erie Career Link also provides customized on-line resumes for graduates and is now assisting in job searches for those who completed the course.

The free training Sherwin-Williams will provide to the residents of our community over the next two years is valued at more than \$200,000 and gives those most in need of work an opportunity to begin a career in a lucrative field.

Applications can be picked up at **City Hall, 626 State St., Room 404, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** You can also print the application from our website and return it in the mail.

***Applications will be considered on a first come first serve basis with preference given to Erie Housing Authority Residents.***

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