

**Association of Joint Labor/Management  
Educational Programs**

(New York, NY)

**Total Award: \$85,300 over 1 year**

*Writing From a Kindred Voice: The Workers' Writing Project*

To support *Writing From a Kindred Voice: The Workers' Writing Project*, a series of writing workshops for workers in joint labor-management educational programs nationwide. The Association of Joint Labor/Management Educational Programs (AJL/MEP) has been providing its workers with education and training for more than twenty years. The model for this program came out of a joint program with the steel industry. When the industry nearly collapsed and 350,000 steelworkers lost their job, those workers who were not downsized needed to learn new skills and those who faced downsizing needed transferable skills to help them obtain jobs in other industries. When the organization realized that many workers were reluctant to enroll in basic skills programs because they perceived the programs to be remedial, creative writing was chosen as a vehicle for encouraging steelworkers to become lifelong learners. Their book, *The Heat*, recognizes the talents of steel workers who poignantly document an industry that has been substantially downsized due to competition from foreign steel companies. The AJL/MEP will develop twelve-week sessions at ten locations across the country, develop supplemental course materials; develop criteria and qualifications for staff with partners in other parts of the country; train a group of instructors and develop on-line courses.

**Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1***