



## **First Small Business Air Assist Grant for Improving Air Quality Awarded *More than \$1 million still available***

SALT LAKE CITY — March 4, 2014 — Small businesses now have access to funding that will improve air quality and protect jobs, thanks to a new grant from the State of Utah. The grant offers funds to small business to purchase equipment upgrades that will reduce emissions.

It's called the UCAIR Air Assist program, and it's a partnership between the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DWS is providing \$300,000 in funding for fiscal year 2013-2014, with possible additional funding in subsequent years. DEQ will help identify businesses that can benefit from the grant and UCAIR administers the funds.

"Less talk, more action. This is the purpose of UCAIR — to provide real resources to be a force of great change to improve our air," said Ted Wilson, UCAIR executive director. "The \$1 million in Air Assist grants will empower small businesses to make direct and real changes in their operations that will have a significant impact on reducing emissions and improving air quality."

ACS Precision Finish, an auto body shop in Salt Lake City, is the first recipient of an Air Assist grant. The funds will be used to upgrade its painting system to decrease emissions. Some additional examples of emissions-reducing equipment that dry cleaners, restaurants, print shops and other small business could purchase with the grant are: exhaust, ventilation or heating units, filtration systems or cleaner burning engines.

"Helping small businesses shoulder costs of upgrading to cleaner equipment protects jobs and supports Utah's economic engine," said Jon Pierpont, Executive Director of DWS. "We are happy to provide funding to bolster the backbone of our economy—small businesses."

To apply, businesses must have fewer than 100 employees, and they must match the grant funds dollar for dollar. The current funding period ends June 30, 2014, so businesses are encouraged to apply quickly. Interested business owners should visit [www.ucair.org](http://www.ucair.org).

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