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Maryland Implements Workforce Programs Under ARRA

Maryland's public workforce system will receive \$28 million in new funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to provide direct services and training for youth, adults and dislocated workers. Most of the funds will be channeled through the State's twelve local workforce investment boards (LWIB). State and local planning for these funds are in the early stages. To assist LWIBs with their planning, GWIB prepared a policy framework to guide the implementation of ARRA workforce priorities.

An early priority is the expansion of summer youth employment programs throughout the State. ARRA funds will be used to hire more than 6,000 Maryland youths, ages 14 to 24, for summer youth employment programs this year – with Baltimore City and Prince Georges County serving the largest number of youth. The majority of these funds are to be used during the summer of 2009, providing summer employment, as well as work experiences throughout the year. LWIB's are now gearing up to begin their programs towards the end of June.

The GWIB guidance recommends that LWIBs allocate a substantial portion of their of their ARRA WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds (70%) to career pathway strategies that result in occupational skills training leading to an industry recognized credential/certification, post-secondary certifications/degrees, and completion of apprenticeships or pre apprenticeships.

LWIB's are encouraged to allocate at least 20% of their training funds to locally driven sector-based industry partnerships in collaboration with

their institutions of higher education, community colleges, other local agencies and training providers. These partnerships will provide workers with skills training needed to advance their employment and income opportunities.

The GWIB guidance recommends that Maryland's One Stop Workforce System post all new ARRA-related job opportunities on Maryland's Public Labor Exchange. This will enable all job seekers to pursue new jobs created, as well assist job placement coordinators in identifying ARRA reemployment opportunities for job seekers.

Please visit www.mdworkforce.com for the complete ARRA guidelines.

"In the past year, the economy has shifted and the country has seen the workforce shortages of the past turn into a workforce surplus. Now is the time to put a new foundation for growth in place... to retrain our workforce, and re-equip the American people... We need to make sure that our workforce is better prepared than ever before and help unemployed Americans who can't find new jobs due to lack of skills and training needed for the jobs they want.

In a 21st century economy, knowledge, training and education is the single best bet we can make – not just for our individual success, but for the success of the nation as a whole.

-President Barack Obama, April 2009

Spending Guidelines

US D.O.L. provided the following guiding principles to the nation's workforce system for spending ARRA funds:

- Transparency and accountability;
- Expedited and effective use of funds;
- Efforts demonstrate workforce/one-stop systems capacity to innovate;
- Primarily spent on services and training;
- Priority populations receive supportive services and needs-related payments;
- Investments are connected to economic growth, regional sector strategies and focused on both job-seeking and business customers;
- Investment in programs and projects that could create "greener jobs;"
- Focus on immediate needs and strategies that support long-term economic recovery; and,
- Identify and create summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth.

Emerging Youth Committee's Policy Recommendations

1. Ensure that public schools, K to 12, higher education, and community providers prepare youth to be workforce ready and support youth's transition to 21st Century careers.
2. Expand and create programs and services that provide real options that engage students in learning and effectively re-engage disconnected youth; helping them achieve academic and industry-recognized credentials; and enter work within a career pathway with good prospects for the future.
3. Establish a policy framework and actions that connect agencies and organizations under a common vision of youth workforce preparation.
4. Engage the employer community as a key partner in solution-building.

Suggested action steps for each of these policy recommendations are included in the White Paper, which can be viewed on the website: www.mdworkforce.com



More than 150 education, government and private industry leaders attended GWIB's Maryland Youth Workforce Policy Summit on May 21, 2009 held on Owings Mills Campus of Stevenson University.

Dr. Kevin Manning, President, Stevenson University welcomed attendees to the campus and summit. Donna Klein, President and Founder of Corporate Voices for Working Families, was the keynote speaker and talked about the crisis facing youth, business and our communities.

The purpose of the summit was to develop strategies and partnerships to implement GWIB policy recommendations (see sidebar) designed to ensure that Maryland's youth are workforce ready and have the knowledge and skills needed for the 21st Century workplace.



Co-Chairs Karen Sitnick and George Littrell at the Maryland Youth Workforce Policy Summit.

To accomplish this the attendees were divided into four breakout groups, each lead by a committee facilitator. The workgroups developed preliminary action plans for each recommendation which were reviewed during the Summit's closing session.

The recommendations and supporting report, "Maryland's Youth Workforce Policy Whitepaper." were developed by the GWIB Emerging Workforce Committee, co-chaired by Karen Sitnick, Director of the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development and George Littrell, Vice President and Senior Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch. Committee members represent a broad range of public, private and non-profit agencies and organizations.

"Input from those who know youth workers are key in developing recommendations for helping youth workers succeed. The summit and white paper are designed to reveal the challenges youth workers face, and to find policy solutions to those challenges," said Eric Seleznow, Executive Director of the GWIB."

The committee's recommendations, along with findings from the summit and the whitepaper summarizing the group's work from the last year, are available on the website: www.mdworkforce.com.

GWIB Supports Information Technology (IT) Summer Internship Program

The GWIB is facilitating industry participation in an IT summer internship pilot program offering Maryland students the opportunity to gain work experiences with local IT companies. The six week program is a collaborative effort between the GWIB and Maryland's twelve regional workforce investment areas (WIAs), technology councils and IT companies. This program is part of a larger effort by the GWIB and Maryland's IT industry to develop a pipeline of prospective employees for Maryland's growing IT industry.

Employers are encouraged to contact their local WIB youth coordinator for additional information.

EARN GREEN BY LEARNING GREEN

Building Automation • Photovoltaics • Energy Efficiency • Wind Turbines • Fuel Cells

Greener Spotlight: Electrical Apprenticeships

From time to time the GWIB will highlight promising practices in the emerging green economy.

Initial research suggests that the majority of new jobs in the green economy will not be new occupations, but rather a broad range of familiar occupations – roofers, welders, plumber, and electricians. The electrical industry is an example of one such program.

I.B.E.W. Local 24, partnered with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), trains hundreds of Maryland electricians with new green skills each year. Local 24's Baltimore Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) has over 450 apprentices taking courses for inside wireman and Voice, Data, Video (VDV) installer training.

Maryland electrical apprentices and journey electricians acquire green knowledge and skills from NJATC courses in:

- Green Building Fundamentals;
- Photovoltaics, Wind Turbine Orientation, Fuels Cells;
- Building Automation and Programmable Logic Controllers; and
- Power Quality Analysis.

"Maryland apprenticeship training is a great career pathway to high skilled, well paying, and now, for electricians and other trades, green jobs," says Neil Wilford, Baltimore Electrical JATC training coordinator.

Green-collar jobs provide an enormous opportunity to bring a new generation of workers into the trades, building community and the labor movement, while ensuring that we have the skilled workforce necessary to rebuild and retrofit the nation.

For more information about green jobs, please visit the Green Jobs Link on the DLLR Website: www.dllr.state.md.us/greenjobs.

Maryland Apprenticeship – Fast Facts:

9,826 registered Maryland apprentices:

- Construction workers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, steamfitters, bricklayers, temperature control technicians, and structural steel workers.
- Manufacturing machinists, tool and die makers, printers, millwrights, and cabinet makers.
- Service Industry, automotive technicians, fire fighters, morticians, electronic technicians, dietetic technicians, and refrigeration mechanics.

Typical Apprentice:

- Earned high school diploma or equivalent.
- Begins a three to five year apprenticeship between the ages of 21-24, and completes it between 25-28 years of age.
- Works full time while attending 144 hours of classroom instruction per year (minimum) at local community colleges or equivalent instruction.

GWIB's Allied Health Focus Group Seeks Regional Workforce Solutions

On June 10, over 70 representatives from the allied healthcare industries, higher education, and LWIB directors from around the state participated in the GWIB's regional healthcare focus groups. The event was held in response to the need for a regional approach to resolving allied healthcare workforce shortages. Led by GWIB Health Care Committee Chair Neil Meltzer, President & COO Sinai Hospital,

attendees addressed specific allied healthcare job and skills shortages in their regions, while identifying potential funding streams for training and skills upgrades. While similar shortages of allied healthcare professions exist throughout the state, each region has specific challenges that require a more customized approach to resolving those shortages. Stay tuned for their findings.

Upcoming Events

Manufacturers Meeting with Local Workforce Representatives

June 30, 2009

8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Loyola Conference Center

Timonium, MD

GWIB Construction-Energy Workforce Solutions Conference

July 21, 2009

8:30 a.m.

BWI Marriott

Green Tech MD Manufacturing

sponsored by RMI

July 23, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Crown Plaza, Timonium

2009 Board Meeting Dates

September 9, 2009

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Anne Arundel Community College

Arnold Campus

December 9, 2009

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Anne Arundel Community College

Arnold Campus

With Census Coming, Marylanders Need to Be Counted

Governor Martin O'Malley launched the **Census 2010 Outreach Campaign** to ensure that every Marylander is counted on Census Day, April 1, 2010. The outreach campaign is designed to educate Marylanders about the importance of the Census and encourage everyone to return census forms.

"The Census," says Governor O'Malley, "is an important, constitutionally mandated event that will shape our future over the next decade." Census data are used to calculate everything from Congressional representation to federal and state funding formulas. According to the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), an undercount of only 1.7% would cost Maryland more than \$1 billion in federal revenue, and even more in state funding distribution over the next ten years.

The outreach campaign outlines actions that industry, local government, community organizations and ordinary citizens can take to help Maryland achieve an accurate census count. Actions that are encouraged include:

- Answer and return the census form. Encourage colleagues and neighbors to do the same.
- Include census information and Maryland's census webpage link in publications.
- Sponsor events to encourage participation.
- Help recruit census workers and provide space for testing and training census workers.

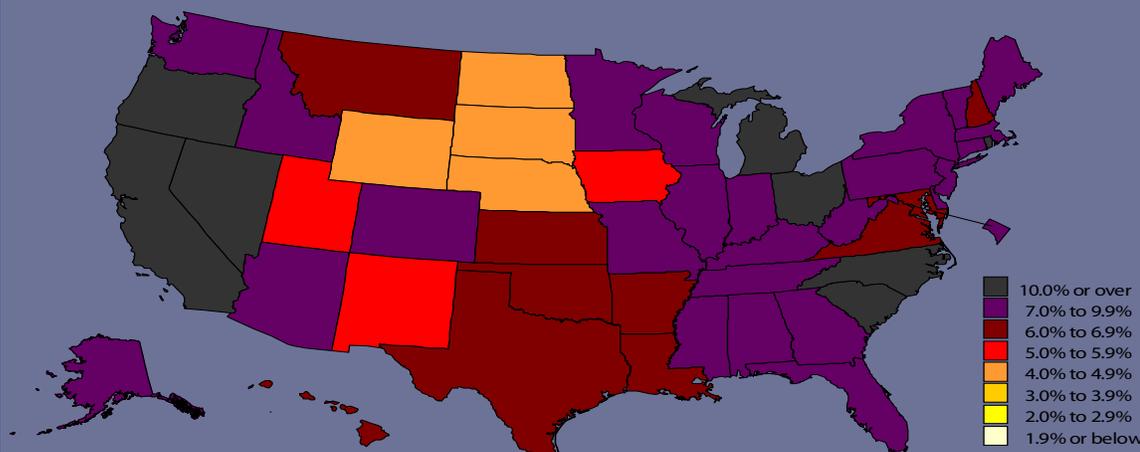
Source: Maryland Department of Planning



Maryland's Unemployment Rate Dips Slightly in April

- Maryland was one of 21 states that recorded a decrease in the unemployment rate between March and April 2009.
- 18 states (including DC) experienced increases, and 11 states saw no change.
- Maryland's March unemployment rate of 6.8 percent is tied with Virginia for 15th lowest in the nation, substantially below the national rate of 8.9 percent.
- With the exception of Virginia, all states which border Maryland had unemployment rates higher than Maryland in April.

Ranking of April 2009 State Unemployment Rates – Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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