



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act [ARRA] of 2009

WORKFORCE EDUCATION & TRAINING PROJECTS

City of Portland, Multnomah & Washington Counties

04/09/10

FORMULA RECOVERY ACT RESOURCES [for the City of Portland, Washington and Multnomah counties]

Department of Labor [DOL] Workforce Investment Act ARRA Formula Funds: \$8.8 mil

- Adults = \$1.59 mil
- Dislocated Workers = \$3.59 mil
- Youth = \$3.65 mil

Availability: All funds must be expended by June 30, 2011. Clear DOL expectation to spend majority in first year.

DOL Competitive ARRA Grants Obtained for Workforce Training in the Portland Metro Area:

- Pathways Out of Poverty Grant: \$4 mil over 2 years to provide skills training to residents of Portland's Culley and Rockwood neighborhoods for employment in Green Careers
- Local Energy Partnership Grant: \$ 1.7 mil over 2 years to support the renewable energy industry through the development of local suppliers and the training of new and existing workers for careers in renewable energy.
- State Energy Partnership Grant: \$653,000 over 3 years to provide scholarships and internships to job seekers to acquire degrees or certificates required for careers in renewable energy and green building industries.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Workforce Investment Board:

- Establish policy framework and investment priorities
- Fiduciary responsibility for stewardship of resources
- Oversight and evaluation of stimulus projects and results

Worksystems role:

- Regional intermediary for workforce development system
- Convene workforce stakeholders
- Coordinate the region's applications for any competitive DOL stimulus funds
- Administer, manage and report investments and results

KEY EXPECTATIONS OF THE RECOVERY ACT

- **Transparency and Accountability** regarding expenditures and results
- **Expedited and effective use of funds, with expenditures made concurrently with other DOL resources** to leverage and align resources and more effectively serve workers in need
- **Emphasis on spending training resources on innovative and invigorated service delivery strategies and system building**
- **Emphasis on services for hard-to-serve populations, unemployed, underemployed and laid off workers**

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ARRA INVESTMENTS

1. Spend resources in a transparent and accountable way
2. Focus investments on preparing individuals to get and keep quality jobs
3. Develop and expand regional partnerships that implement sectoral employment strategies
4. Target, coordinate and align workforce investments
5. Use the existing publicly funded WorkSource system to post available jobs, recruit applicants, coordinate/deliver services and track results
6. Achieve equity in implementation plans and services for WorkSource customers

ARRA/STIMULUS FUNDED PROJECTS: MARCH 2009 – MARCH 2010

- **Summer Jobs for Youth:** Through Youth SummerWorks 279 employers provided subsidized work experiences to 1276 low income youth between the ages of 16 – 24 years old; of which 65% were minorities. On average youth earned \$8.40 per hour and worked 180 hours.
- **Year Round At-Risk Youth Programs:** WIA year round youth budget was reduced by 20% in PY 2009. ARRA funds were used to maintain services and funding levels at the 2008 level.
- **Post Secondary Supplement:** Enhanced WIA year round youth program with funding for postsecondary education and training tuition scholarships and/or personnel costs associated with supporting at-risk youth to successfully transition into and persist in postsecondary education.
- **WorkSource Portland Metro Tuition Scholarships:** ARRA funds made it possible to address the greatly increased demand for occupational training services from workers dislocated by the economic crisis and the chronically unemployed. In the first 6 months of this year, the number of postsecondary education and training scholarships awarded through the regional 1-stop system increased by over 225% compared to the same period last year: from 550 to 1,240 tuition scholarships awarded in the same period. Scholarships for WorkSource customers were targeted for training in high growth/high demand industries, including training for “green careers”.
- **Expanded Menu of Workshops and Career Planning Services in WorkSource Portland Metro 1-Stops:** ARRA funds supported development and implementation of a robust menu of 9 career planning and skill development workshops and customized one-on-one services that are available, along with adult internships and on-the-job and classroom occupational training, at all WorkSource Centers in the regional 1-Stop system.
- **WorkSource Express Centers:** Worksystems used ARRA funds to launch 2 new WorkSource Portland Metro “Express Centers” in North Portland and western Washington County. These WSPM Express Centers expand the skill development and employment services available to individuals at New Columbia and Forest Grove.
- **Adult Internships:** ARRA funds have supported adult internships as a way for public benefit recipients, a focus population of ARRA, to gain work experience, learn job skills, and have the opportunity to be hired into regular employment after the subsidized employment period is over.
- **Adult Literacy Services:** To address the low skill levels of many customers entering the system, Worksystems used ARRA funds to contract with PCC to develop and implement vocationally contextualized classes in computer literacy, workplace math and ESL that are offered by a mobile team of instructors at all five regional WorkSource Centers and at the new Express Center at New Columbia.
- **Green Jobs Pipeline:** ARRA funds are supporting the development and delivery of “direct hire training” for a cohort of 25 dislocated workers to enter employment in weatherization in the construction and retrofit industries. Worksystems also used ARRA funds to develop and implement a workshop designed to educate WorkSource Center customers about green jobs
- **Regional Business Services:** ARRA funds are paying for on-the-job training [OJT] contracts with businesses and a team of Business Services Reps to market and execute OJT contracts. Since the launch of this team in November '09 nearly 100 job seekers have been hired through OJT contracts. In addition, this team provides job placement support to individuals who complete occupational training through WSPM.
- **Dislocated Engineers Training:** Following a Career Symposium for nearly 500 dislocated engineers, Worksystems used ARRA funds to address the need identified by engineers at the Symposium for training in Project Management, Six Sigma Black Belt, Lean Champion and Entrepreneurship.