

Wondering What's Happening with the Recovery Act this Week?

WOW's Weekly Scan of Federal ARRA Happenings for the Week Ending April 16



www.wowonline.org

Issue No. 34

As more and more announcements are made of grant opportunities, new and changing rules and regulations, policy and program objectives, WOW will be watching. On a weekly basis, we will provide "Federal ARRA Happenings." Helping your organization understand and advocate based on what federal rules will allow and are encouraging the states to do under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act can make a difference for all of us. If you have any questions about what you read here, please call us at (202) 464-1596 –we are here to assist you.

From the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE 38-09

This notice announced the one-time availability of up to \$90 million in funding for On-the-Job Training (OJT) National Emergency Grants (NEGs) funded through ARRA. NEGs are discretionary grants awarded to provide employment-related services for dislocated workers. NEGs are intended to temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels by providing time-limited funding assistance in response to significant dislocation events. Funds will be made available to states to plan and implement OJT programs in partnership with State Workforce Investment Boards, Local Workforce Investment Boards, CBOs, and other intermediaries in areas of high unemployment.

For more information read the Notice at:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/ten2009/ten38-09acc.pdf>

From Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Department of Housing and Urban Development released March data for the Administration's Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). As of the end of March more than 1.1 million borrowers were receiving a median savings of \$500 each month. Permanent modifications have been granted to more than 230,000 homeowners, and an additional 108,000 permanent modifications have been approved by servicers and are pending only borrower acceptance. Homeowners' lower monthly mortgage payments under HAMP represent a cumulative savings of more than \$3 billion. The March HAMP report can be found at: <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/docs/Mar%20MHA%20Public%20041410%20TO%20CLEAR.PDF>.

To read the press release, go to

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-079.

DOL: We Can Help

DOL Wage and Hour Division has launched the 'We Can Help Campaign.'

Through the use of Spanish/English bilingual public service announcements — featuring activist Dolores Huerta and actors Jimmy Smits and Esai Morales, the launch of a new Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/wecanhelp> and a toll-free hotline, 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243), the department is renewing its emphasis on reaching and assisting workers who often find themselves denied the pay legally guaranteed to them by law. The campaign also underscores that wage and hour laws apply to all workers in the United States, regardless of immigration status. This national effort seeks to educate and encourage workers to report employer abuses.

For more information, go to the 'We Can Help' DOL Website at <http://www.dol.gov/wecanhelp/>.

From The National Association of State Workforce Agencies

The Impact on Training of the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 2009 – The Local Level

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) **developed a survey for its members** to determine the effect the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 2009 (ARRA) was having on their training practices. NASWA worked through the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) to distribute the survey to their members in order to determine the Act's impact on training at the local level. The result is a new report titled "*The Impact on Training of the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 2009 – The Local Level*". To read the report go to: <http://www.nawb.org/portals/0/Training%20Report%20v%203.pdf>.

From the White House

- **The Council of Economic Advisers** released their third report on the Recovery Act titled "*The Economic Impact Of The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act Of 2009: Third Quarterly Report*". It includes an assessment of the effects of the Act through the first quarter of 2010. Among the analysis is a look at trends in the size and composition of Recovery Act spending and tax reductions; evaluation of the economic impact of the Recovery Act and a special section of the report focuses specifically on the impact of the tax relief and income support provisions of the Recovery Act. To read the full report, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/CEA-3rd-arra-report.pdf>.

To read the Blog post with a summary of the report, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/14/council-economic-advisers-releases-a-new-report-recovery-act>.

- **The Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** released a **Q&A** to federal agencies regarding the need for increased transparency in federal spending. To date, federal agencies have reported contract or award information only at the prime recipient level for transparency purposes. Under this guidance, sub-award information will now be required to be collected and reported. Sub-award reporting will be required beginning October 1, 2010, through a single searchable website, USAspending.gov. OMB is expected to issue additional guidance for subaward reporting in the next month.

The Memo also indicates that OMB will "solicit input on current transparency initiatives, the challenges and burdens faced by stakeholders in increasing transparency, technical and logistical obstacles, and additional efforts to improve federal spending transparency" and will solicit ideas and recommendations on how interested parties outside the government and the various professional disciplines within the Government can best work together to define and develop a long-range vision for optimal transparency.

A copy of the memorandum is available at

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/open_gov/OpenGovernmentDirective_04062010.pdf.

- Additionally, **the President issued a notice in the federal register** titled "*Combating Noncompliance With Recovery Act Reporting Requirements*". The memo directs agencies to further intensify their efforts to improve reporting compliance by prime recipients of ARRA. To read the Memorandum, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-8226.pdf>