

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

*WOW's Weekly Scan of Federal ARRA Happenings for the Week Ending April 23*



[www.wowonline.org](http://www.wowonline.org)

Issue No. 35

*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)**

#### **ETA Occasional Paper**

DOL ETA released an Occasional Paper: ***Pre-Design Study for the Evaluation of Recovery Act Green Jobs, Health care, and Other High Growth Competitive Grants.*** The report examines ARRA funding directed toward DOL for competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industries. Three of the Green Jobs SGAs – Energy Training Partnerships, State Energy Sector Partnerships, and Pathways Out of Poverty – and the High Growth/Health Care SGA included language that gave applicants points for their suitability for a random assignment evaluation. DOL contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, who examined the possible objectives of evaluation of these grants and the most effective methodologies for addressing them. The report discusses:

- Features of the grants that might influence the type of evaluation design that may be appropriate;
- Possible objectives and types of research questions of interest to ETA;
- Three different types of random assignment designs that could be used for the evaluation; and
- Other types of methodologies that could be used should a random assignment approach be deemed either inappropriate or infeasible.

To read the publication go to the ETA Occasional Paper Series Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.

To read the Directive, go to [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2888](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2888).

#### **ETA Office of Inspector General Office of Audit released two new reports:**

- ***Recovery Act: The U.S. Department Of Labor Needs To Evaluate Its Role In The Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) Program.*** Issued: March 31, 2010 Report Number: 18-10-003-03-390  
According to the report, as of December 3, 2009, 3 grants totaling \$8 million of the appropriated \$150 million had been awarded to 6 states. The report discusses DOL's role in the HCTC program and the need for the full \$150 million given the program's low participation. OIG made five recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training to address low participation in the HCTC NEG program.

To read the report go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2010/18-10-003-03-390.pdf>

#### **RECOVERY.GOV**

For the third time recipients of ARRA funding have filed their quarterly reports of the awards and the respective project(s) - Quarter 1, 2010 (January 1 – March 31) were submitted from April 1 - 16.

The review period will end on April 29, 2010 and the data will be posted on Recovery.gov on April 30, 2010. The next reporting cycle begins July 1, 2010.

For more information, go to

<http://www.recovery.gov/News/featured/Pages/ThirdPeriodRecipientReporting.aspx>.

- **Recovery Act: Actions Needed To Better Ensure Congressional Intent Can Be Met In The Workforce Investment Act Adult And Dislocated Worker Programs** Issued : March 31, 2010 Report Number: 18-10-004-03-390

For this report the audit objectives were to answer the following questions:

1. How are the Recovery Act funds for WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs being spent or planned to be spent on employment and training services, supportive services, and administration as required by the Act?
2. How are the Recovery Act funds being spent and planned to be spent to serve targeted populations as required by the Act?
3. How are Workforce Investment Boards making use of the new flexibilities in the Recovery Act for contracting for training?
4. How are the Recovery Act funds being spent and planned to be spent for training and supporting program participants for employment in high-demand jobs, including but not limited to, "green jobs" as required by the WIA program and the Recovery Act?

Among the findings was that \$24 million is at risk of not being spent in accordance with provisions of the Recovery Act. To better ensure ARRA funds for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are spent as intended by the Congress they recommended the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training take actions focusing on developing strategies to promote consistency in the LWIB plans with Recovery Act provisions, and timeliness in developing those plans.

To read the full report go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2010/18-10-004-03-390.pdf>

## From Department of Energy (DOE)

### **WEATHERIZATION INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM**

DOE announced that it will provide up to \$30 million to fund a Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program to accelerate innovations in whole-house weatherization technologies and services. The program is looking to fund new projects that will deliver measureable improvements in the cost, scope, and energy savings of low-income weatherization programs across the country. The competitive funding opportunity is open to collaborative partnerships that can include the private sector, colleges or universities, utility companies, non-profit organizations, or existing weatherization providers.

DOE plans to make between 10 and 15 awards under this announcement. Projects are tentatively expected to begin in October 2010 and will run for up to two years. For more information on this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), visit [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), or search the public opportunities on the [FedConnect Web site](http://FedConnect.gov) for reference number DE-FOA-0000309. Applications for the FOA are due by June 2, 2010.

For more information read the press release at [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/printable\\_versions/news\\_detail.html?news\\_id=15949](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/printable_versions/news_detail.html?news_id=15949).

### **STATE ENERGY PROGRAM: WEBINAR**

Webinar - [New SEP Funding Opportunity to Strengthen Building Retrofit Markets and Stimulate State Energy Efficiency Policy](#). The Webinar will be on Wednesday, April 28th from 3:00 PM -4:00 PM EDT. On the call will be State Energy Program experts to discuss the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement, the merit review criteria, and DOE's involvement in the cooperative agreement with the states. To register for the Webinar go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/660693712>

## From the White House

### **PRESS ROOM**

The White House is hosting a **Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship** that is being held Monday and Tuesday, April 26-27th in Washington, D.C. At the Summit they will be working to identify ways to advance economic and social entrepreneurship, build networks among stakeholders in entrepreneurship, and provide an opportunity to establish partnerships that advance entrepreneurship. For more information on the Summit go to: [www.entrepreneurship.gov/summit](http://www.entrepreneurship.gov/summit).

Or read the Blog post at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/23/a-new-beginning-presidential-summit-entrepreneurship>

You can also post questions you may have about entrepreneurship at: <http://www.good.is/post/what-would-you-ask-at-the-presidential-summit-on-entrepreneurship>.