

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

### *WOW's Weekly Scan of Federal ARRA Happenings for the Week Ending January 8*



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

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*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) Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)**

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) (<http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/>) is responsible for ensuring that contractors doing business with the Federal government do not discriminate and take affirmative action. OFCCP is hosting three web-based listening sessions this month focusing on the affirmative action and nondiscrimination obligations of contractors and subcontractors, specifically towards the hiring of workers with disabilities, veterans and women. These events seek participation from stakeholders, including employers and placement and training organizations, among others.

**In late 2010 and early 2011, OFCCP plans to publish a series of proposals that will seek to enhance the agency's existing regulations and improve compliance with the laws that OFCCP enforces. To help inform the development of these proposals, OFCCP is seeking input from stakeholders.** The one-hour *Web Listening Sessions* will:

- Highlight OFCCP's anticipated regulatory activities;
- Offer a critical opportunity for stakeholders to provide suggestions and recommendations to OFCCP;
- Provide information on how stakeholders can participate in the official rulemaking process.

#### **Dates and topics:**

- [Tue, Jan 12, 2010 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST](#) - - Affirmative Action & Nondiscrimination Obligations of Contractors and Subcontractors; Evaluation of Recruitment and Placement Results under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- [Thu, Jan 14, 2010 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST](#) - - Affirmative Action & Nondiscrimination Obligations of Contractors and Subcontractors; Evaluation of Recruitment and Placement Results under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRAA).
- [Wed, Jan 20, 2010 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST](#) - - Construction Contractor Affirmative Action Requirements. OFCCP regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, require Federal and federally assisted construction contractors to provide equal opportunity in all construction trades.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 05-10**

This program letter invites the submission of proposals and funding requests from State Workforce Agencies to implement new UI reemployment and eligibility assessment (REA) initiatives or continue an ongoing REA initiative at the current or an expanded level; to provide guidelines for developing the proposals, and to provide criteria governing the use of these funds.

A total of \$60 million has been appropriated for REAs in FY 2010 Funds must be used to assess the continued eligibility and reemployment needs of UI beneficiaries and are not intended to supplant ongoing UI grant funds devoted to eligibility reviews for claimants who are not selected for an REA. States do not have to implement the REA initiative statewide. For more information, go to:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL05-10acc.pdf>.

For the audio portion of this listening session, please call 800-369-1722, (outside United States call 517-308-9423). This passcode will be required to join the call: 6341500. To submit comments, suggestions, or feedback please email: [OFCCP-Regulatory-Agenda-EO-Construction@dol.gov](mailto:OFCCP-Regulatory-Agenda-EO-Construction@dol.gov)

### **Employment & Training Administration (ETA)**

ETA recently launched the Green Jobs Community of Practice (CoP). This on-line virtual community is available through ETA's knowledge sharing and learning platform — Workforce3One.org. Green Jobs CoP provides a platform for workforce professionals and leading green job experts to share promising practices, serves as a venue for providing technical assistance to ETA grant-funded programs, and provides a central point of communication. [Visit the Green Jobs CoP](http://greenjobs.workforce3one.org/page/topic/4120933838709581985) : <http://greenjobs.workforce3one.org/page/topic/4120933838709581985>.

### **Webinar**

*Greening the World of Work: Implications for O\*NET SOC and New and Emerging Occupations*: This January 14<sup>th</sup> Webinar highlights findings from the O\*NET Program's report *Greening the World of Work: Implications for O\*NET- SOC and New and Emerging Occupations*. The report describes the O\*NET program's efforts to define the green economy; describe green industry sectors and identify different types of green occupations including green new and emerging occupations. The Webinar also presents how this new green information has been incorporated into O\*NET products and tools to help workforce development professionals, educators, and individuals learn about and use the most current information on the green economy and green occupations. To register for this webinar, go to: <http://www.workforce3one.org/view/5000929237922379523/info>.

### **From the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**

*\$2.3 billion in ARRA funding was issued for Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits for 183 projects in 43 projects across the United States. It is projected to generate more than 59,000 high quality clean energy jobs and the domestic manufacturing of advanced clean energy technologies including solar, wind, and efficiency and energy management technologies.*

The projects selected must be commissioned by February 2013, and the government expects about one-third of those will be completed this year. The program provides a 30% tax credit for those projects. The credit is focused on U.S. manufacturing of clean energy technologies such as solar and wind. Obama has said he wants to double the amount of renewable energy the United States uses over the next three years. In addition to the federal funding, private firms are investing \$5.4 billion, which is projected to create 41,000 more jobs, according to the White House. For more information, read the:

- DOE press release: <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8503.htm>
- Article at: [http://greeneconomypost.com/president-obama-awards-2-3-billion-for-new-clean-tech-manufacturing-jobs-7444.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+TheGreenEconomyPost+%28The+Green+Economy+Post%29](http://greeneconomypost.com/president-obama-awards-2-3-billion-for-new-clean-tech-manufacturing-jobs-7444.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheGreenEconomyPost+%28The+Green+Economy+Post%29)
- Full list of selected projects: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/100108-48c-Selection-Final-With%20Projects.xls>

### **From the U.S. Department of Education**

The Department of Education (ED) published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing three additional public meetings to be held in Washington, DC, on the development of a common assessment. These meetings will inform the development of the \$350 million Race to the Top Assessment Competition that would support the state development of new assessments tied to a common set of standards. They are:

- Project and Consortium Management: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Procurement: Thursday, January 14, 2010 9:00 am - 12:30 pm; and
- General and Technical Assessment: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Written testimony can be submitted to each event. Additional information is available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-30975.pdf>.