

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

WOW's Weekly Scan of Federal ARRA Happenings for the Week Ending April 2



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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)

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- DOL announced the availability of \$1.8 million in funds for up to six **Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations grants (WANTO)**. According to the press release: "the grants, jointly administered by the department's Women's Bureau and its Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship, will support preparatory apprenticeship opportunities for women entering the construction industry and other non-traditional sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and green jobs. Grant funding also will support the training of Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, employers and labor unions to improve recruitment, selection and retention strategies for women in non-traditional occupations."

The solicitation is published in the *Federal Register* and can be accessed by going to: <http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-09-03.pdf>.

To read the press release, go to:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/wb/wb20100367.htm>

- DOL announced the availability of \$2 million in funding for the **Veterans' Workforce Investment Program** to assist eligible veterans by providing employment, training, support services, credentialing and networking information in renewable and sustainable energy. Applicants may also propose strategies that focus on employment and training opportunities related to the growth and enhancement of emerging green industries that clean and enhance our environment. For more information on this solicitation, read the press release at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20100378.htm>

DOL Rule - Trade Adjustment Assistance training funds to states

DOL released a new rule intended to improve funding and process for allocating Trade Adjustment Assistance training funds to states. The changes to the funding formula will provide states with a predictable level of funding at the start of a fiscal year and allows for additional allocations of funds as needed. The goal of this funding approach is to respond more quickly to state needs, it also reflects an increase in training funds.

The rule is published in the Federal Register and will go into effect on May 3.

For more information, read the press release at <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100379.htm>.

To read more details about this rule, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/regulations>.

From Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM (HCV/FSS).

HUD awarded nearly \$49.3 million to provide low-income people with the necessary job training to put them on a path toward self-sufficiency through the *Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program* (HCV/FSS).

Local housing authorities use the funding to hire family self-sufficiency coordinators to link adults in the Housing Choice Voucher program to local organizations that provide job training, childcare, counseling, transportation and job placement. These housing authorities can also hire coordinators to help families get homeownership counseling. For more information and to see a list of allotments to states read the press release at:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-059

From the Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ARRA BUSINESS LOANS

The USDA announced that loan guarantees are being provided through the USDA to businesses in 24 states made available through ARRA funding. The goal of the loans is to boost local economies and support job creation; some of these guarantees will also support President Obama's comprehensive renewable energy strategy by promoting renewable fuel production. The loan guaranteed funding announced supports 44 projects and totals \$101.6 million. For more information and a list of borrowers receiving loan awards read the press release at:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0157.xml

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA announced that it will award grants of up to \$5 million to improve access to and increase participation in the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* (SNAP) – formally the food stamp program. The deadline to submit grant proposal applications is June 23, 2010. Grant applications can be obtained at www.grants.gov, on the Food and Nutrition Service website at www.fns.usda.gov/snap, or by calling the grant officer, Lisa Johnson, 703-305-2848.

From the White House

BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY

The Council on Economic Advisors released a new report titled: "*Work-Life Balance and the Economics of Workplace Flexibility*". The report presents an economic perspective on flexible workplace policies and practices; the current state of flexible work arrangements; and concludes with a discussion of the economic benefits of workplace flexibility arrangements.

For more information,

- Read the report at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/100331-cea-economics-workplace-flexibility.pdf>
- Read the White House News Release at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-and-first-lady-host-white-house-forum-workplace-flexibility>
- Read White House Blog posts:
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/01/workplace-flexibility-white-house>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/31/economics-workplace-flexibility>
- Or, view presentations from the White House Workplace Flexibility Forum:
 - [Video of Breakout 1: The Benefits of Workplace Flexibility, CEA Chair Christina Romer](#)
 - [Video of Breakout 2: Best Practices Day-to-Day, GSA Administrator Martha Johnson](#)
 - [Video of Breakout 3: Best Practices Day-to-Day, OPM Director John Berry](#)
 - [Video of Breakout 4: Best Practices for Small Business, SBA Administrator Karen Mills](#)
 - [Video of Breakout 5: The Changing American Workforce, Domestic Policy Advisor Melody Barnes](#)
 - [Video of Closing Session: President Obama's Remarks](#)

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