

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

WOW's Weekly Scan of Federal ARRA Happenings for the Week Ending April 9



www.wowonline.org

Issue No. 33

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>

OPEN GOVERNMENT

DOL joined other federal agencies to outline a series of steps to make its operations more transparent while seeking expansion of opportunities for public participation and collaboration. Included in the plan is a new online enforcement database that provides a single entry point for enforcement data of five Department of Labor agencies, as well as an interactive map of grant funding for the past year. The plan is available on <http://www.dol.gov/open/> - specifically at: <http://www.dol.gov/open/OGDplan.pdf>

Other related websites include:

- Open Government Information pages: <http://www.dol.gov/open/>
- DOL Enforcement Data: <http://ogesdw.dol.gov/>, and
- DOL Grants Award by State: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/grants/map/>

For more information read the press release at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/opa20100461.htm>

DOL: We Can Help

DOL Wage and Hour Division is holding outreach events around the country to educate workers about the 'We Can Help Campaign.'

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/>.

FUNDING

- DOL announced approximately \$20 million for two grants **to provide employment services to young adult offenders and high school drop-outs ages 18 to 24** in high-poverty, high-crime communities. Awarded through a competitive process, the goals of these grants are to prepare individuals for employment and reduce recidivism among participants through job placement, subsidized jobs, on-the-job training, mentoring and community service projects. To view the full solicitation online, visit http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

For more information, read the press release at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100426.htm>

- Also announced, a competition for approximately \$13.2 million in grant funds under ARRA **to create and implement a virtual service-delivery platform and promote career exploration in the healthcare sector**. Grants will be awarded to support projects that use virtual service-delivery models to promote career opportunities in healthcare and other high-growth sectors. The grants will be awarded in two categories: Healthcare Virtual Career Platform and Enhancing the Ability of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Deliver Virtual Career Exploration Services, Including Healthcare Careers.

The solicitation for grant applications was published in the April 7 edition of the *Federal Register*. It provides background information and the closing date, describes eligibility and submission requirements, outlines the process that eligible entities must use to apply for funds and details how grantees will be selected. To view the full solicitation online, visit http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

For more information read the press release at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100432.htm>

From Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE announced selections for nearly \$100 million for 54 smart grid workforce training programs. The selections include support to develop and deploy training programs broadly as well as to conduct actual personnel training for current and future employees. According to the press release, the selections support two types of workforce training initiatives:

- **Developing and Enhancing Workforce Training Programs for the Electric Power Sector (Topic A)** - 33 projects have been selected to receive \$41.6 million in Recovery Act funds for the development of new training programs, strategies and curricula related to the electric power sector and the smart grid. These new programs include projects at universities, community colleges and technical schools that will help serve as models for training or retraining workers across the country. The awards also include support for the Strategic Training and Education in Power Systems (STEPS) initiative, which will develop cross-disciplinary electric power system programs at the university and college level.
- **Smart Grid Workforce Training (Topic B)** - 21 projects have been selected to receive \$57.7 million in Recovery Act funds to conduct workforce training programs for new hires—including displaced workers and military veterans—and retraining programs for electric utility workers and electrical equipment manufacturers to further enhance their knowledge of smart grid technologies and their implementation. These projects will help ensure utilities and manufacturers have the necessary trained workforce to support the ongoing smart grid deployment projects, including Smart Grid Investment Grants and Demonstration Projects funded under the Recovery Act.

To see the full list of selected projects go to: http://www.energy.gov/news/documents/04-08-2010_SG_Workforce_Selections.pdf

For more information read the press release at: <http://www.energy.gov/news/8842.htm>

From the US Conference of Mayors

The U.S Conference of Mayors met with Energy Secretary Steven Chu with the goal to develop stronger collaboration on the Energy and Conservation Block Grant to improve the collaboration between mayors and DOE in grants' implementation. The EECBG, was authorized in 2007 under the Bush Administration and subsequently included in the Federal Stimulus Plan (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).

For more information, read the press release at

<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/ADVISORYMAYORSMEETWITHCHU4810.pdf>.

1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 930 – Washington, DC – 20036 – (202) 464-1596

©Wider Opportunities for Women, 2009.

From the White House

WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM

- **The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology** launched a [website](http://pcast.ideascale.com/) (<http://pcast.ideascale.com/>) to gather input from the public about the future of advanced manufacturing. They are seeking ideas on how the U.S. can enhance its advanced manufacturing. According to the Executive Office of the President paper "A Framework for Revitalizing American Manufacturing," the manufacturing sector generates significant benefits for society including "Providing jobs that have higher pay and benefits than similar jobs in other sectors; Creating wealth if there are consistent productivity improvements; Providing a career path to the middle class for people for whom a four-year college degree is not the best fit; and Supporting 70 percent of all research and development spending performed by industry in the United States." For more information go to: <http://pcast.ideascale.com/>.

- **Did 'Cash-for-Clunkers' work as intended?** – this White House Blog post explores the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS, commonly known as 'Cash-For-Clunkers') and provides data about the economic value of the program. For more information, read the Blog post at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/05/did-cash-clunkers-work-intended>.

- A new **Briefing Memo to the President** from the office of Jared Bernstein, Chief Economist to Vice President Biden, summarizes the proposals submitted by the American people on creating jobs and stimulating economic activity.

In December, the Forum for Jobs and Economic Growth at the White House was an opportunity to hear from CEOs, small business owners, labor leaders, and financial experts about ideas for putting Americans back to work. Further, forums were held across the country to gather proposals about spurring job creation, and information was sent back to Whitehouse.gov. The memo released on April 5th, summarizes those proposals.

- For more information on the [jobs forum at the White House](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobsforum) go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobsforum>
- To read Jared Bernstein's memo go to: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/community_jobs_forums_memo.pdf
- To read the Blog post regarding both the forums and the Memo go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/05/community-jobs-forums-and-keeping-momentum-economy>

- **Data.gov**

The purpose of Data.gov is to increase public access to machine readable datasets generated by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The site holds an invitation to [participate](#) in shaping the future of Data.gov by suggesting additional datasets and site enhancements. You can do so by going to <http://datagov.ideascale.com/>.

For more information on data.gov, review the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.data.gov/faq>.

The White House Office of Public Engagement brought together organizations representing communities of color and women to discuss recent efforts to create jobs and restore our economy. The group discussed the Administration's job creation proposals. Nearly 30 organizations were present for the conversation including leading national grassroots organizations, policy think tanks, faith organizations, as well as women's advocacy groups.

For more information read the blog post at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/06/working-make-our-recovery-more-inclusive>