



Wider Opportunities for Women

Job and Skill Development Opportunities From the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Feb. 20, 2009

Selected jobs in energy efficiency, housing, infrastructure and technology*	
Weatherization Assistance Program	\$5 billion to improve energy efficiency of an estimated 1 million homes of households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty line. Estimated to employ 1 million. See http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/ and Weatherization Technical Assistance Center http://www.waptac.org/
Energy Conservation Block Grant	\$3.2 billion block grant for cities administered through the Department of Energy
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$4 billion for repair and maintenance
Affordable Housing Retrofit	\$2 billion to owners of project-based Section 8 assisted units and \$250 million to upgrade HUD assisted housing for senior and disabled persons
HOME Investment Partnership Tax Credit	\$2.25 billion in gap financing for affordable housing to re-start affordable housing construction projects
Lead paint abatement	\$100 million for competitive grants to remove lead paint from moderately priced housing
Neighborhood Stabilization Fund	\$2 billion to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties
School retrofit	\$53.6 billion State Fiscal Assistance Fund for k-college educational programs can be tapped to modernize and retrofit schools for energy efficiency
GSA Federal buildings	\$4.5 billion for renovations and repairs to increase energy efficiency
Electric power grid	\$11 billion
Broadband and wireless	\$7.2 billion to extend broadband and wireless service to underserved areas
DOT roads and bridges	\$27.5 billion for road and bridge infrastructure
Transit and rail	\$20 billion
Rural community facilities	\$130 million for grants and loans for such facilities as healthcare, education, day care, community centers
DOD child care centers	\$240 million for new centers
Health Information	\$19 billion to computerize health records

Technology	
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*Except for health care, most occupations in construction and technology are considered “nontraditional” for women, defined by law as those in which women comprise 25% or less of the current workforce.

Worker Protections

ARRA appropriated \$80 million to the Department of Labor for the enforcement of worker protection laws, regulations and oversight. The Secretary is authorized to transfer funds as necessary to offices such as the Employment Standards Administration, provided that planned uses are provided to the appropriations committees of the Congress. DOL’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance is charged with enforcing equal opportunity and nondiscrimination laws and regulations. Another \$6 million is provided for the DOL Office of Inspector General for oversight and audit of DOL programs.

Skill Development Opportunities	
Weatherization	\$1 billion (20%) of the amount for home weatherization may be used for job training. Because the weatherization program (see above) is more than ten times greater than the current program, there will be high demand for preparing workers. Quality training in certified programs can help these normally short-term jobs become a first step on a career pathway to self-sufficiency.
Community colleges	Funds from the State Fiscal Assistance Fund for education (\$53.6 billion) may be directed to Perkins Career and Technical Assistance education programs in community colleges and technical schools. Education for women and girls in nontraditional occupations is a required use of local funds under Perkins.
Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Administered through the Department of Labor	\$750 million in competitive grants administered \$500 million is designated for skill development for green jobs. Priority for the remainder is preparation for careers in health care, and the conference report states that broadband and advanced manufacturing are to be considered emerging sectors. A limited portion of these funds may be used for technical assistance and research.
	\$500 million for adults, including supportive services and needs-related payments, to support the training needs of priority populations including public assistance recipients and other low income individuals.
	\$1.2 billion for youth services and summer jobs through age 24 to serve young adults disconnected from education and the labor market.
	\$1.2 billion for dislocated worker services. The Secretary of Labor is directed to assure supportive services and needs-related payments are provided to facilitate training.
	\$200 million in National Emergency Grants to respond to workers dislocated by plant closings and mass layoffs.
	\$50 million for YouthBuild including at-risk youth who gain occupational credentials while constructing and rehabbing affordable housing
	Local workforce boards are authorized to contract with institutions of higher education and other eligible training providers as long as they do not limit customer choice.

State Unemployment Insurance Operations	\$400 million for reemployment services including training to connect claimants to new employment.
Trade Adjustment Assistance	\$575 million. The DOL program is reauthorized and expanded to include service sector and public agency workers. Allows pre-vocational, part-time and on-the-job training and grant programs for community colleges and sector partnerships impacted by trade.
Job Corps	\$250 million to rehab or construct Job Corps centers and/or train participants in energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental protection.
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$500 million for state formula grants for persons with disabilities to prepare for gainful employment.
Older workers	\$120 million for the Community Service Employment of Older Americans program.
Highway infrastructure OJT/SS	\$20 million is designated for transportation and technology training for minorities, women and economically disadvantaged populations. Grants are administered by the DOT Office of Civil Rights for training, support services and summer institutes. Proposals for programs, schools and contractors are submitted by state departments of transportation. See http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/tande.htm
Health Resources Administration	\$500 million is provided for training of primary care workers, including nurses, dentists, doctors and medical school expenses for those who agree to practice in underserved communities.
Pell Grants	\$14.64 billion to increase the maximum grant by \$500 in 2009-10 to a maximum of \$4,860.
American Opportunity Tax Credit	Replaces and expands the Hope Scholarship Credit to a maximum of \$2,500 and makes it partly (40%) refundable for those with income below \$90,000 for individuals or \$180,000 for joint filers.

Suggestions for State and Local Advocates

- Demand public participation, a transparent process and accountability in the use of funds through public hearings, citizen oversight boards, and Web-based monitoring systems. Watch the national program unfold at www.recovery.gov
- For each contract awarded, resident hired or client served, data should be kept on their race, ethnicity age, and gender and be available on a cross tabulated basis. In addition specific data requirements should be established pursuant to different programs as determined by the city and relevant agency. The agency or vendor receiving the initial contracts, grants, loans, etc shall be responsible for reporting the data.
- Get involved in state and local planning to ensure the taxpayer gets the biggest bang for its buck by targeting employment and skill development to those who need it most.
- Promote good jobs for disadvantaged communities and employ local residents representing different populations consistent with their proportion in the community.

- Promote pre-apprenticeship training programs for low-income populations and in nontraditional jobs for women. Programs should include recruitment, job placement and retention, career pathways and work supports that are coordinated by nonprofits ,joint labor-management councils or other public private efforts.
- Enact state and local laws or regulations that require or encourage the hiring of individuals with incomes less than 200% of poverty or equal to a measure of self-sufficiency, and or including persons preparing for occupations nontraditional for their gender.
- Promote coordination of various agencies engaged in implementation of the ARRA at the state and local level
- Encourage career paths from credentialed education and training programs into high-growth sectors with pathways to self-sufficiency level jobs. Check to see if your state or local WIB and community colleges use the Family Self-Sufficiency Standard as a benchmark.

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