

Workforce Development Update - March, 2009

HOT NEWS

MA Economic Stimulus Information The American Recovery and Reinvestment Program

DRAFT MEMO

IMMEDIATE DETAILS FOR MASSACHUSETTS

ABE (WIA Title II) is not explicitly discussed in the Economic Stimulus bill, but there are provisions under which ABE and ESOL services can be offered to assist unemployed workers retool their skills to become more readily employable. At the Mass Workforce Board Association meeting held on March 5th in Holyoke, Secretary Suzanne Bump reported on the funding levels that will be coming to Massachusetts.: \$56M will be sent to MA from the federal government through the Workforce system - \$25M of that amount is dedicated for youth employment initiatives, and the rest is targeted for the adult system for low-income and dislocated workers. Additional funds will come to the state for competitive processes in Health Care and Green Jobs, as well as for technical enhancements to the data system.

The funds for employment and training have a SHORT window for use; the system (i.e. regional workforce systems) will need to develop initiatives that can be implemented within *60 days*. Secretary Bump indicated that adult basic education services (including ESOL) are a priority for the state. She articulated that partnering with providers is critical. We at ACLS hope you will contact your WIB and Career Center Directors to discuss ways that you can help craft these education and training initiatives. Remember that the workforce system will be looking for *employment outcomes* upon completion of programs. Programs will likely need to be short-term and intensive – perhaps a fast-track GED with occupational training is a model that would interest them, part of which you could offer. If you have collaborated with workforce partners in the past, provided curriculum contextualized to workplaces, built programs that offer work-readiness components, your services are valued.

Continue to check the website of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for information related to funds to be made available through local school districts. Also, for other information, go to <http://www.ed.gov>.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND MASSACHUSETTS' PLANNING PROCESS

To learn more about the Economic Stimulus bill and how services will be implemented in Massachusetts, go to www.mass.gov/recovery. Governor Patrick has outlined the strategies the administration is pursuing in the “Massachusetts Recovery and Reinvestment Plan” (the plan is almost 500 pages long). In November, Governor Patrick convened leaders of his staff, directing them to form task forces dedicated to addressing key issues – members and reports of each Task Force are presented on this website and include the following: Energy, Education Facilities, Transportation, Information Technology, Private Development, State Facilities and Courts, Municipal Facilities. In addition to these areas, three additional areas are included: Workforce, Permitting, and Procurement. The Workforce Task Force was with developing plans to mobilize that state and private workforce, including strategies to accelerate hiring and ensure inclusion of underrepresented communities.

Specific principles are identified in the Recovery Plan that should guide all strategies:

- Invest for the Long Term.
- Limit Impact on Operating Budgets.
- Follow Existing Infrastructure Priorities.
- Diversify (across industries and geographic areas).
- Buy Massachusetts.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Education and training efforts will be delivered largely under the auspices of the Local Workforce Investment Board. Contact your WIB Director (or REB or PIC Director) to learn about the strategies that will be pursued in your region. *Flexibility* exists to allow the regions to design contracted services with specific organizations, rather than fund such programs through allocations to individuals for their specific training needs (Individual Training Accounts/ITAs).
- Funds for dispersal at the *state* level are limited and will be dispersed through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (Commonwealth Corporation).
- Education and training initiatives related to needs within a specific industry area may be identified and offered through the state agency overseeing that area (example: construction jobs may fall under the Mass Highway Department). The MA workforce system is charged with tracking all education and training initiatives, and a data collection system/process will be implemented to do this.
- Local WIB Directors and One-Stop Career Center Directors will be engaged in developing strategies on the local/regional levels. Unemployment claims across the state have risen dramatically; at the last Mass WIB meeting, increases from 200% to 600% over last year were reported. Clearly, these increases put significant strains on the system. Contact your local workforce leaders about how your program might help, and please recognize the pressures of the current economy on their service delivery capacity.
- Union jobs, pre-apprentice programs and apprentice opportunities are prioritized. Consider developing contacts among union representatives who sit on your local Workforce Board. Talk to your WIB staff about how this will be implemented in your region.

Tips on Contributing to Meeting the Needs of Dislocated Workers Who Need Retraining and/or Education

- Contact Your Local Workforce Board (WIB) Director and Your Local One-Stop Career Center Director to learn about your region's status. www.massworkforce.com – from the state map, you can connect to your local WIB).
- Remember that employment outcomes will be the goal of education and training initiatives. Short-term and intensive services will be prioritized.
- Contact Your ABE Representative to your local WIB; perhaps work with your representative to set up a meeting of ABE providers with the LWIB Director and the Career Center Director. (See attached)
- Investigate the information on the website of your local WIB. (Go to www.massworkforce.com)
- Identify the members on the Local Workforce Investment Board (or REB or PIC). Are there people you know with whom you can learn more about regional initiatives?

Identify the labor representatives to your WIB; find out about union-led initiatives, especially apprentice training opportunities.

- Learn about your local WIB Youth Council; funds from the stimulus bill are available for Summer Youth Jobs Programs (and the funds may carry over to support school-year programs), BUT *severe income eligibility requirements* exist.
- Review regional labor market information from the website, or go to www.commcorp.org to find the results of the recent Paul Harrington data (under Regional Workforce Strategies Initiative). Also, learn about the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI) operated under Commonwealth Corporation (especially learn about grants from these initiatives in your region.).
- Understand the workforce-related services you provide; understand the workforce goals and backgrounds of your students. Understand the impact on your students of the current economic downturn. Be able to articulate these to your workforce partners. Be prepared to describe your experience and expertise in ways that compliment the workforce system.
- As businesses plan for layoffs (especially large employers), they may work with the workforce system to help prepare workers for job loss (Rapid Response program). Federal funds exist through the workforce system to deliver services for workers in such circumstances. Be alert to such needs in your community.
- Review the Workforce Development Updates in the ACLS monthly e-mailing.
- If you have questions, contact ACLS; speak with Andrea Perrault and 781-338-3852 or e-mail aperrault@doe.mass
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Spring ABE-LWIB Representatives Meetings with Regional ABE Program Directors:

Southeast MA: **Friday, April 17, 2009**
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Brockton Public Schools
211 Crescent Street
Brockton, MA (report to office upon arrival)
508-580-7475

Northeast MA: **Thursday, April 30, 2009**
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lowell Public Schools
408 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA (report to office upon arrival)
978-937-8989

Central MA: **Tuesday, April 14**
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Quinsigamond Community College (Downtown Campus)
100 Front Street, 2nd floor
Worcester
508-751-7903

Western MA: **Friday, May 1, 2009**
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Holyoke Community College
Kittredge Center, Room 226
303 Homestead Street
Holyoke, MA
413-552-2334

P-21 NEWS

Find **Pathways to Success by 21** Information at <http://resources21.org>.

The **Merrimack Valley P-21** initiative sponsored a workshop in February on the ABE Transitions Program and the Northern Essex Community College Developmental Education Department. The event featured presentations by and Marilyn Ricketts and Shirley Lyon of the ABE Transitions Program.

The **Bristol P-21** initiative is sponsoring an information session about the G.E.D. on March 18th from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Bristol Community College. The session will feature a presentation by Tom Mechem of ACLS.

Ready to Succeed - Regional Initiatives to Cultivate Education and Career Options to enhance community-wide drop-out prevention activities will be held across the state:

March 19, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Merrimack College, North Andover

March 23, 7:30 – 12:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Marlborough

April 16, 8:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Hoagland Pincus Center, UMass Worcester

April 30, 1:30 – 6:00 p.m., UMass Dartmouth, ATMC Center, Dartmouth

June 11, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Holyoke Community College, Holyoke

Co-sponsors include the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Commonwealth Corporation. For more information go to <http://www.commcorp.org/youth/youthsummits.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **3rd Annual New England Workforce Development Professionals Conference**, "Delivering Professional Workforce Services in Tough Times", is on March 27 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Through this conference, you can join NAWDP (the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals). For more information, contact Keith Hensley at Holyoke Community College at khensley@hcc.mass.edu.

The Massachusetts Workforce Board Association holds its annual meeting in Williamstown at the Orchards Hotel on May 28 – 29. The theme of the meeting is Massachusetts Regional Strategies Initiative – One Year Later. If you have concerns about ABE in the workforce system, discuss your thoughts with your local WIB Director. Go to www.massworkforce.com for more information.

National Career Development Association Global Conference will be held on June 30 – July 3, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency at Union Square, St. Louis, Missouri. For info, go to www.ncda.org

RESEARCH

JFF Newswire – Jobs for the Future disseminates information in a variety of publications related to “next steps for students” (For info, go to www.jff.org and click on “November Newswire”)

SABES:

Next Steps Workshops: Southeast SABES: SABES SE has planned a 2 day *Adult Ed Institute*. The theme and focus for this institute is “transitions” – transitions to work, higher education and/or community. Scheduled for two Saturdays in March (March 7 & March 21), they will be all day events.

ALRI – Boston will host a **Next Steps Workshop** on April 29, 2000 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. This session will feature information about short term training initiatives, including CityLab Academy at Boston University, International Institute of Boston, Red Cross CNA Training, and the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative training for incumbent workers. Contact John Zhang at the ALRI at 617-287-4076 for info.

Contact your **SABES Workforce Coordinator** for information on SABES WFD activities.

Laurie Sheridan is the statewide SABES Workforce Coordinator; Contact her at 617-482-9485 or lsheridan@worlded.org. Go to www.sabes.org and scan the calendar for workforce related sessions. SABES Workforce Development Specialists include Dori McCormack at SABES West; Cathy Gannon at Central SABES, Kathleen Howell at SABES SE, Patricia Pelletier at SABES NE, and John Zhang at the ALRI.

For more information, contact Andrea Perrault, ACLS Workforce Development Specialist at 781-338-3852 or e-mail at aperrault@doe.mass.edu.