

Workforce Development Update, May, 2009

HOT NEWS!

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):

Local workforce regions are moving forward on their ARRA education and training plans:

- All regions must submit plans to the state (MA Department of Workforce Development) by May 29th. (See Workforce Issuance #)
- Many regions are holding meetings, hearings, or bidders conferences about the potential uses for their ARRA funds.
- Contact your Workforce Investment Board office to find out about the latest news in your region. (Go to www.massworkforce.com for the regional map and contacts to your local WIB office.)

Factors to consider IF you want to bid on ARRA funds and offer programs for *adults*:

- Employment is the key and ONLY outcome measure.
- Turnaround time is short; funds will need to be obligated quickly. Planning time will likely be minimal.
- Implementation during the summer is likely.
- Intensive services are critical (20+ hours per week.)
- Integration/coordination with occupational training is necessary. Partnership is important to consider.
- Contextualized curriculum may be necessary (See info below on the newly expanded Career Readiness Curriculum Guide.)

Local workforce boards may apply for waivers if there is a compelling need in their region to seek exemption from some ARRA requirements. Again, communicate with your local WIB/REB/PIC Director.

ARRA will help unemployed workers by:

- Increasing unemployment checks by [\\$25 per week](#)
- Excluding the [first \\$2,400 of unemployed benefits from federal tax](#)
- Allowing more individuals to qualify for extended unemployment benefits
- by [extending the deadlines for application and payment](#)
- Providing a [federal subsidy of 65 percent of monthly COBRA premium](#) for up to nine month

www.opportunity.gov - President Obama stated on May 8th that he plans for the Administration to work with states to reduce barriers to education and training for unemployed workers. The President also announced the launch of a new website Opportunity.gov – a resource for those looking for training or retraining.

NOW AVAILABLE!! UPDATED CURRICULUM GUIDE

The newly revised Guide on Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE & ESOL Classroom, developed by Martha Oesch and Carol Bower, is now available on the SABES website. The National Center on College Transitions funded the revision of the guide to include more information on the topic of transition to college. Available for download and on CD! www.sabes.org.

Workforce System Information on Language Services Assistance for Limited English Proficiency Customers: For information about language assistance guidelines provided by the Department of Workforce Development to the workforce system, read the new Issuance of 4/3/09 at <http://www.massworkforce.org/Issuances/InfoIssuance2009.htm>

P-21 NEWS

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

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:

- **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 www.commcops.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Boston Private Industry Council Annual Meeting

The PIC Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the Federal Reserve Bank auditorium, featuring Mayor Menino, Secretary Suzanne Bump, and Superintendent Carol Johnson. Go to www.bostonpic.org for more information.

One-Stop Career Center Events

MBTA Information Sessions, Wednesday, May 27, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Marlboro.

Learn about opportunities with the MBTA – info on the upcoming job lottery, present and future jobs with the MBTA, tips on how to apply for positions, feedback on your resume. Go to **Employment & Training Resources**, 201 Boston Post Road West, Suite 200, Marlborough, MA. Preregistration required at 508-786-0928, Ext. 127.

JobNet Career Center, 2109 South Street, Boston, MA, 617-338-0809

Skills for Success Workshop Series (Presented by Self-Esteem Boston). Space is limited – Call to Register.

- Your Career Goals and Career Focus
- Making Job Search Work
- The Emotional Side of Worksearch and Work
- Presenting Yourself Effectively
- Retaining Jobs – Making Them “Stick”

Know Your Rights – Lawyers are available at **JobNet** on the last Thursday of every month between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.. Call 617-338-0909 for an appointment. For help with CORI or background checks, a recent copy of criminal record **MUST** be brought to the meeting.

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)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth Workforce Coalition (**CWC**)

The CWC announces its continued partnership in September 2009 with Northeastern University in offering its Certificate in Workforce Development. Courses include Workforce Development Policy, Understanding Labor Markets, Employer Relations, and Research and Evaluation. Credit can be applied to a Master's degree in one of three areas: Education, Non-profit Management, and Leadership. Information sessions will be held on Tuesday, May 19th from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at CEDAC, One Center Plaza, 3rd floor, Boston, MA, or on Friday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at CEDAC. Call 617-797-0195 for more information.

SABES

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 on the ACLS Workforce Development Specialty, contact Andrea Perrault, ACLS Workforce Development Specialist at 781-338-3852 or e-mail at aperrault@doe.mass.edu.