



A WOMEN WORK! SPECIAL BRIEF

Funding Opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on February 17th, 2009, with the expectation that some \$787 billion in recovery funding would be distributed soon after. For advocates and organizations seeking ARRA funding, the main point to remember is that funds are being distributed NOW. Therefore, immediate action is critical to securing funding.

Below is a list of federal programs, divided by administering agency, which will see an increase in funding under the ARRA. Within each of these programs is an opportunity to obtain training and employment funds – although some are more obvious than others. In some cases, funds will be distributed to states, which will then distribute them further. In other cases, organizations must apply for funds directly to federal agencies. Unfortunately, there is no central location to apply for ARRA funding.

But while every federal program, state, and locality will have its own mechanism for distributing funds, we have provided some tips at the end of this analysis to guide you.

POSSIBLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (Listed by Federal Agency)

Department of Labor

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Program	Funding Level	Notes
WIA grants to states for adult employment and training activities	\$500 million	Includes supportive services and needs-related payments; provides priority for intensive and training services to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals
WIA grants to states for dislocated worker employment and training activities	\$1.25 billion	
WIA grants to states for youth activities	\$1.2 billion	
WIA competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industry sectors	\$750 million	\$500 million is to be used for projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy

WIA-Specific Requirements:

- WIA adult, dislocated worker, and youth grants are to be distributed to states using existing formulas within 30 days of the bill's signing – that is, by March 12, 2009. Competitive grants for worker training will be distributed through the federal Department of Labor, though possibly with state input.

(WIA-Specific Requirements cont'd)

- Funds will remain available only as long as other Program Year 2008 funds are available (that is, the end of the program year).
- Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) may contract with institutions of higher education or other eligible training providers, so long as customer choice is not limited.

Other DOL

State Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Employment Services Operations	\$400 million	\$250 million is to be used to provide reemployment services to UI claimants
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	\$120 million	Funding is to be allotted in proportion to Program Year 2008 to current grantees within 30 days
Job Corps, for construction, rehabilitation and acquisition of Job Corps Centers	\$250 million	The Secretary of Labor may transfer up to 15 percent of this amount to meet the operational needs of such centers, which may include training for careers in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental protection industries
Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) training services	\$718.75 through December 2010	TAA was reauthorized as part of the ARRA. The reauthorization expands eligibility and training options and includes \$40 million for programs at community colleges.

Department of Transportation

Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Job Training/Supportive Services (OJT/SS)	\$20 million	To support programs that enhance training opportunities for members of minority groups and women. Competitive grant program; proposals to be submitted through states.
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Department of Energy

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability worker training activities	\$100 million	For worker training activities in this field
Home Weatherization Assistance	\$1 billion	This amount, equivalent to 20 percent of the total amount for home weatherization activities, is available for job training

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Resources and Services (HRSA) workforce development programs	\$500 million	To address health professions workforce shortages. Funds may be used to provide scholarships, loan repayment, and grants to training programs for equipment.
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(Department of Health and Human Services cont'd)

Community Services Block Grant	\$1 billion	Activities under this grant could conceivably include training
Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund	\$3 billion	These funds are available to states as reimbursement for maintaining or increasing services

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grant	\$1 billion	Activities under this grant could conceivably include training
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General Services Administration

Federal Building Fund	\$3 million	For OJT pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs registered with DOL for construction, repair and alteration of federal buildings
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State Fiscal Assistance Fund (through Department of Education)

Perkins Career and Technical Education	\$53.6 billion	A portion of the State Fiscal Assistance Fund may be directed to career and technical education programs in community colleges and technical schools
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TIPS FOR ACCESSING FUNDS

- Use your current contacts and funding streams. For example, if you currently receive WIA money, find out if additional funds are available through WIA.
- Many states have set up panels or commissions to determine how they will use funds allotted to them. Make sure you know who is participating and what they are doing. Ask around. Get involved.
- Check with your state agencies. Every state may employ a different mechanism for distributing funds. However, there are some likely pathways. For instance, if the program is administered federally through the Department of Labor, it will likely be administered on the state level through the State Department of Labor. If Workforce Investment Boards usually play a role, they are likely to be playing a role here.
- Lobby. As always, demonstrate your capacity to provide services, and your clients' need for your programs. For advocacy tips, see Women Work!'s Advocacy Toolkit at <http://www.womenwork.org/policy/advocacy.htm>.

TIPS FOR ENSURING THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT WELL

- Demand public participation, a transparent process, and accountability in the use of funds through public hearings, citizen oversight boards, and Web-based monitoring systems.
- Advocate for state and local laws or regulations that require or encourage the hiring of low-income individuals and individuals training for nontraditional occupations.
- Promote an approach at the state level that requires various administering agencies to coordinate.
- Encourage career paths from credentialed education and training programs into high-growth sectors with pathways to self-sufficiency jobs.

OTHER RESOURCES

- The text of the ARRA itself, and summaries, are available at <http://appropriations.house.gov/default.aspx>.
- President Obama has created a website to track economic recovery spending: <http://www.recovery.gov/>. It also contains information about expected impacts of the spending.
- Find your state's expected funding level on the Nationwide Allocation of Recovery Funding Interactive Map from the Center for American Progress at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/compromise_map.html.
- The Center for Law and Social Policy is holding a series of audio conferences devoted to specific areas of ARRA funding, including child care and workforce development. More information is at <http://clasp.org/publications/StimulusSeriesAnnouncement.pdf>.
- ARRA implementation information for advocates is available from the Progressive States Network at <http://www.progressivestates.org/stimulus>. You can also sign up for an expert-led February 26th conference call on their website.
- Information on green jobs in the ARRA is available from Green For All at <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/recovery-package>.