



Training and Employment Notice

TEN 30-08

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Bobby Jindal, Governor
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Office of Workforce Development

INFORMATION NOTICE

To: Chief Elected Officials
Local Workforce Investment Board Chairpersons
Local Workforce Investment Staff
WIA Fiscal Agents and Subrecipients
WIA Title I –B Administrators
One-Stop Operators
WIA State Agency Partners
Other Interested Persons

As you should be aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (The Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The goal of this legislation is to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The Recovery Act will provide additional Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding to the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB). The expected outcome is that the Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) will quickly and effectively provide employment and training services to additional adults, dislocated workers and youth beyond what is being funded with your regular WIA allocations in order to help the current and emerging Louisiana workforce acquire new skills and enter or get back to work as soon as possible. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with an understanding of what will be expected of the LWIB as you begin planning how your LWIA will use these funds to enhance services to both job seekers and businesses in your region.

As you begin your preliminary planning activities, you should keep in mind the following key features of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Additional guidance and details of these key features will be forthcoming from the U.S. Department of Labor during the next thirty days:

1. *Transparency and Accountability*
2. *Expedited and effective use of funds, with expenditures made concurrently with regular formula funds*
3. *Emphasis on training and innovative and invigorated service delivery strategies*
4. *Emphasis on services for hard-to-serve populations and needs-related payments*

Expectations are that these additional funds will enable the LWIBs to continue to build a workforce system that enables adults to move seamlessly between work and education and training in order to advance in their careers and upgrade their contribution to the workplace. Additionally, it is expected that disconnected youth will be able to reconnect through multiple pathways to education and training opportunities necessary to enter and advance in the workforce. These funds can be used to provide adult education, job training, postsecondary education, registered apprenticeship, and enhanced supportive services that are fully aligned with economic and community development strategies. Education and training at every level should be aligned with jobs and industries important to local and regional economies. Additional Wagner Peyser funding will support reemployment services for unemployment insurance claimants.

In addition to the key features, the following principles should further guide your LWIB in successfully meeting the goals of the America Recovery Act:

- Substantial increase in numbers of customers served and receiving training;
- Investments connected to economic growth objectives through **regional sector strategies** aligned with economic development, education, including community colleges, business and labor organizations, and other partners for high-growth industries such as green jobs, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing;
- Dual customer focus: supply-side workers and demand-side business needs for skills and talent; and
- Strategies to reach low income and low skilled customers so they may share in economic prosperity, including engaging with community-based organizations.

The Recovery Act requires that funds be distributed to the states no later than 30 days from the date the bill was signed into law and that the state must make the Recovery Act funds for WIA and Wagner Peysner available to the LWIAs no later than thirty days of being made available to the State. The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) has received the state allotment and is currently working on local allocations. Once you are notified of allocation, contracts will be issued to each LWIA to cover each allocation. According to USDOL, states and LWIBs are being advised to begin planning now in order to quickly and effectively put the funds to their intended use. Please also note that the Program Year (PY) 2009 annual funding agreements for WIA Title 1 activities will be issued on the normal funding schedule.

Action Items:

1. WIB Chairs and Directors need to read the attached TEN 30-08 very carefully and share the information with other WIB members, WIB staff, and Local Area Coordinators.
2. Begin strategizing how additional services for adult and dislocated workers, including enhanced supportive services can be quickly delivered to meet the goals of the Recovery Act.
3. Start planning for 2009 summer youth activities, which includes creating high quality summer employment opportunities and other work experiences outside the summer months.
4. Be available for a conference call to discuss next steps in the implementation of the Recovery Act on **Thursday March 12, 2009**. You will be notified by e-mail as to the time of the conference call.

For your information, click '[here](#)' to link to USDOL Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 30-08 dated March 04, 2009. The TEN gives initial information and timelines concerning the Recovery Act and its implementation. As we move forward with this initiative, in order to ensure Louisiana is meeting the key principles of the Recovery Act, the LWC will provide each LWIB with policy guidance and reporting and accountability measures in order to assist each local area meet the challenges in their community due to current economic conditions.

If you have any questions please contact Howard Sanders, Director of Office of Workforce Development at 225-342-3120.