



Helping Rural Oregon Work

## Rural Recovery and Reinvestment - Oregon Update 1

### In This Issue

**ARRA Youth Resources**  
**National Emergency Grant Funding Helps Dislocated Workers**  
**Unemployment Rates Climb**  
**ARRA Supports Youth as Explorers**  
**ARRA Funds for Rural Workforce Programs**  
**ARRA Award Amounts**  
**Oregon's Skills to Compete Campaign**

### ARRA YOUTH RESOURCES

Youth funds are to be used to provide meaningful work experience and work readiness opportunities during this summer for disadvantaged youth across the Area.

#### Award Amounts by Region:

Region 1 - \$361,633  
 Region 6 - \$526,760  
 Region 7 - \$363,659  
 Region 9 - \$206,543  
 Region 10 - \$492,563  
 Region 11 - \$356,688  
 Region 12 - \$389,525  
 Region 13 - \$208,536  
 Region 14 - \$231,219

A wide variety of innovative projects have been developed both at the regional and area level. More than 1000 rural youth will participate in the summer program. For additional information visit our [ARRA webpage](#).

### National Emergency Grants Aid Dislocated Workers

Staff in our office and at the sub-grantee levels

Dear Kris,

So many folks are giving their opinions about where the economy is headed, while I like to toss around my theories about what is happening or will happen - I certainly don't know the answer. What I do know though, is that Rural Oregonians are feeling the impact of the current very deep recession in a manner most cannot imagine.

Given this environment and the investment of federal dollars via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the workforce development system has a unique opportunity to demonstrate its relevancy to the futures of rural communities and citizens in Oregon and across the nation.

This newsletter provides up to date information regarding the investment of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, National Emergency Grants and more, currently underway across our 24 county area, and how these resources are being used to chart a positive course for the future.

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds Benefit Rural Workers, Business & Industry

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act set aside more than \$4 billion for workforce development. A portion of these funds have made their way to Oregon and we are prepared to be a part of the economic recovery by investing these funds in human capital - developing the skills of our workforce, assuring Oregon's competitive position for the jobs of the future.

Our rural area has been allocated \$1,246,735 for services to Adults, \$2,540,132 for Dislocated Worker services and an additional \$2,888,174 for Youth services. (Additional Detail Follows)



have become expert in the process of applying for and receiving National Emergency Grant (NEG) funding in response to significant layoffs. Following is a list of current NEG's underway:

Bayliner - Region 6  
Northwood - Region 13  
Boise - Region 13  
Boise - Region 1  
Fleetwood - Region 13  
Fleetwood 2009 - Regions 12 and 13  
Monaco - Region 14  
Cessna - Region 10

NEG's are made available via US DOL to provide additional assistance in significant layoff situations.

### Unemployment Rates Continue to Climb

Unemployment rates in our 24 counties continued to climb - as of March 2009, the average unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in the 24 counties had reached 12.56%. Some counties are much higher and some lower - Crook boasted a 18.5% rate (just a year ago it was hovering near 9%) with Wheeler coming in with the lowest current unemployment rate, of 9.1%

So why the low rate in isolated and very rural Wheeler? No there is no big secret - the fact is that discouraged job seekers impact the unemployment rate by responding to surveys (part of the calculation process) that they are not currently seeking work. They answer in this manner because they know no vacancies exist.

Why bring this up? This data impacts the ability of these counties to attract formula allocated funds which use data like the unemployment rate in their formulas and provides a

In light of this investment of tax payer funds, The Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance have issued the following clauses as part of the ARRA contracts:

- That first and foremost the TOC/OWA Administrative Office and our network of sub-grant recipients will utilize the ARRA funds made available to them in a transparent, responsible and efficient manner;
- That staff resources at all levels should be directed to the support of training and education and other associated services, as well as business related services via the EWTF or other appropriate sources;
- That 95% of funds received via ARRA allocation to The Oregon Consortium Workforce Investment Area will be put into contract as rapidly as possible with the current, proven, network of service providers;
- That 5% of the funds will be reserved at the Area level for initiatives that benefit the entire 24 county area;
- That the following expectations will be established via contract with sub-grant recipients:
- Requires obligation of 90% of the total funds available in the ARRA adult and dislocated worker funding categories by September 30, 2009;
  - Spend rate for ARRA adult and dislocated worker fund categories of at least 90% of the total funds available by June 30, 2010;
  - Spend rate of 90% by September 30, 2009 for all ARRA youth funds;
  - At least 60% of the total funds available in adult and dislocated worker funding categories be expended for training, education and associated needs related payments;
- That TOC/OWA staff will monitor progress toward these goals on a monthly basis and work aggressively with providers to assure that contract requirements are spent and that recapture and reallocation of funds does not become necessary;
- That the TOC Administrative Office will be held accountable for the same obligation and spend rates as described above.

Our network of sub-grantees have been extremely supportive of these positions and have aggressively planned and launched programs and services funded by ARRA resources. Information regarding allocations within the 24 county area are included in the last section of this newsletter.

[For additional information on ARRA programs, services, etc. please visit the ARRA section of our website.](#)

### ARRA Investments - Sub-Area (Regional) Level:



The TOC/OWA Area is divided into nine regions, funding varies by region based on a variety of factors in the State's formula including unemployment, excess unemployment, population, etc.

false sense of what is really happening.

### Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)  
[ARRA Information](#)  
[Regional Sub-Grantee Info](#)

### Oregon Underwater and Volcanic Discovery Team

The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce Alliance is working with a variety of partners including Linn Benton Community College, Clatsop Community College, The Job Council and Community Services Consortium to support one of the most innovative youth projects we've seen in a while!

The Oregon Underwater and Volcanic Discovery Team (OUVDT) will deploy at Paulina Lake (Deschutes County) in early July and for six weeks - youth from across the State will take part as members of a research team that will build, maintain and deploy a Remote Operated Underwater Vehicle to explore and document volcanic structures under the lake's surface.

Enrollment for the project is open to WIA enrolled youth and additional information is available [by clicking here.](#)

#### Region 1 - [MTC Training & Placement Services](#)

Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$151,090, DW \$264,868

Region 6 - [Umpqua Training & Employment, Inc.](#) Douglas County  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$239,759, DW \$381,363

Region 7 - [South Coast Business Employment Corporation](#)  
 Coos and Curry Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$172,879, DW \$251,517

Region 9 - [Mid-Columbia Council of Governments](#)  
 Wheeler, Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman and Wasco Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$91,036, DW \$251,198

Region 10 - [Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council](#)  
 Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$211,683, DW \$390,448

Region 11 - [Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council](#)  
 Klamath and Lake Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$161,792, DW \$247,366

Region 12 - [Community Action East Central Oregon](#)  
 Umatilla and Morrow Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$171,504, DW \$319,587

Region 13 - [Training & Employment Consortium](#)  
 Wallowa, Baker and Union Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$85,781, DW \$130,583

Region 14 - [Training & Employment Consortium](#)  
 Malheur, Harney and Grant Counties  
 Contract ARRA funds -- Adult \$110,191, DW \$168,003

What does this investment mean for services? Capacity across our area has been increased and more robust menus of services and assistance are now available to job seekers and dislocated workers (DW). In alignment with the goals of TOC/OWA nearly 500 adults and DW's will receive support via the TOC/OWA ARRA funded scholarship program, supporting post-secondary education and training. 1000's of additional adults and DW's will receive assistance varying from short term skill enhancements, career counseling and guidance, support services and needs related payments.

It is our desire to use this opportunity and these funds to support rural citizens to define and prepare for their futures. By investing in scholarships, training and support services we can help families stay in their communities and homes while they develop the skills necessary to compete for the jobs of the future.

Additional information regarding ARRA funding, expenditures, programs and services is available on our [website](#), check back often as the Rural ARRA Dashboard will soon be up and running!

**TOC / OWA Endorse Oregon's Skills to**

## Compete Campaign

At their April meeting in Bend, the members of The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce Alliance took action to formally endorse Oregon's Skills to Compete Campaign. The Skills to Compete Campaign focuses on communicating knowledge and information about what some call middle skill occupations (jobs that take less than a 4 year degree), the education and training necessary for these middle skill jobs and their expected continued demand for workers.

The Skills to Compete Campaign aligns well with TOC/OWA's vision to assure that rural citizens, business and industry have the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in the economic recovery.

For additional information go to: [TOC/OWA and Oregon's Skills to Compete](#).

We appreciate your interest in and on-going support of our efforts in Rural Oregon and I am proud of everyone that makes up our rural team!

For additional information please contact our office or follow the links provided previously. We are also happy to provide additional detail or custom information - including presentations, printed or ready to print materials upon request.

Sincerely,

Kris Latimer, CEO  
The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce  
Alliance



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