

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DCEO)
ARRA FUNDING APPROACH**

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION DISCUSSION

June 15, 2009

Presenter: Julio Rodriguez

Major Objective: Prevent dislocation and support recovery in key sectors by accelerating investment in the skills of Illinois workers.

Approach: Partner with industry organizations and employers and education and training providers to utilize incumbent, customized, OJT, and class-sized training mechanisms to accelerate training and provide transitional employment opportunities for workers while in training where possible. In addition, Illinois will use regular state WIA funds to expand access to sector-based bridge programs to provide opportunities for low-skilled workers to access accelerated training opportunities in the targeted key sectors. This will be done through the Shifting Gears initiative.

Key Sectors---Healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation and logistics, information technology, and green initiatives across all sectors of the Illinois economy

Healthcare

- Improving Healthcare and Preventing Dislocation (Incumbent Worker Training). Partner with Illinois Biomedicine Initiative (MCHC is partner) to invest in incumbent worker training to support hospitals that are undertaking major initiatives to reduce cost and improve quality under new federal and state healthcare requirements and utilize information technology including the conversion to electronic medical records, which is a major component of the stimulus package and could result in the dislocation of medical billing and coding workers. Illinois Biomedicine Initiative is trying to leverage stimulus funding and other federal resources and recently held a summit to launch the initiative on April 27 at MCHC.
- Upgrading Front-Line Healthcare Workers (Incumbent Worker Training). Partner with healthcare organizations such as MCHC to provide incumbent worker training funding to upgrade existing front-line workers in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home healthcare to fill critical high-demand skilled allied healthcare positions.
- Accelerated Nursing Programs (Class-Sized Training--Incumbent and Pre-Employment). Work with the Center for Nursing to update nursing shortage estimates in all regions and provide funding to community colleges in regions with verified shortages to launch accelerated 18 month nursing programs in which the final semester of enrollment is no later than Fall, 2010. Models should provide for non-incumbent workers to begin working in healthcare (e.g., CNA) while still enrolled in nursing programs to provide transitional employment opportunities. Note: This should be coordinated with the House Stimulus Bill funding of \$600 million in grants to train primary health care workers that could flow to community and technical colleges.

Manufacturing

- Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation (Incumbent Worker Training). Work with ETIP and the ETIP network of industry organizations and training providers (e.g., Tooling and Manufacturing Association (TMA), Illinois AFL-CIO, CFL, Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing) to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois manufacturers who are retraining workers on company time to remain more competitive and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Accelerated Manufacturing Training Programs (Class-Sized Training--Incumbent and Pre-Employment). Work with IDES and industry associations to update CSSI shortage estimates (e.g., machining, welding, industrial maintenance) in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects (e.g., TMA project) that have identified employers wishing to hire in regions with verified shortages to launch accelerated 18 month programs in which the final semester of enrollment is no later than Fall, 2010. Models should provide for non-incumbent workers to begin working in manufacturing (e.g., machine operator, warehousing) while still enrolled in training programs to provide transitional employment opportunities.

Transportation and Logistics

- Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation (Incumbent Worker Training). Working with industry associations to conduct outreach to employers and identify opportunities to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois transportation and logistics companies who are retraining workers on company time to remain more competitive and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Accelerated Transportation and Logistics Training Programs (Class-Sized Training--Incumbent and Pre-Employment). Ask Mike Johl to work with IDES and industry associations to update CSSI shortage estimates (e.g., warehousing, trucking, logistics management) in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects (e.g., TMA project) that have identified employers wishing to hire in regions with verified shortages to launch accelerated 18 month programs in which the final semester of enrollment is no later than Fall, 2010. Models should provide for non-incumbent workers to begin working in transportation and logistics (e.g., warehousing) while still enrolled in training programs to provide transitional employment opportunities.

Information Technology

- Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation (Incumbent Worker Training). Work with industry associations to conduct outreach to employers and identify opportunities to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois information technology companies who are retraining workers on company time to remain more competitive and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Accelerated Transportation and Logistics Training Programs (Class-Sized Training--Incumbent and Pre-Employment). Work with IDES and industry associations (e.g., AeA, Illinois Information Technology Association) to estimate shortages based on Information Task Force targeted occupations in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects (e.g., TMA project) that have identified employers wishing to hire in regions with verified shortages to launch accelerated 18 month programs in which the final semester of

enrollment is no later than Fall, 2010. Models should provide for non-incumbent workers to begin working in information technology while still enrolled in training programs to provide transitional employment opportunities.

Supporting Green Initiatives Across Sectors

- Define Green Industries and Occupations. Work with IDES and other state agencies to define those industries and occupations which are critical to green-related economic development efforts and opportunities in Illinois including clean coal (e.g., FutureGen) and local and organic foods (e.g., State Task Force recommendations)
- Implementing Green Initiatives: Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation (Incumbent Worker Training). Work with industry associations to conduct outreach to employers in targeted green industries and identify opportunities to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois companies who are retraining workers on company time to and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Accelerated Green Training Programs (Class-Sized Training--Incumbent and Pre-Employment). Work with IDES and industry associations to estimate shortages in key occupations in green-identified industries (e.g., energy auditor for construction) in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects (e.g., TMA project) that have identified employers wishing to hire in regions with verified shortages to launch accelerated 18 month programs in which the final semester of enrollment is no later than Fall, 2010. Models should provide for non-incumbent workers to begin working in green industries while still enrolled in training programs to provide transitional employment opportunities.

ICCB-Shifting Gears--Establish Sector Bridge Programs (No Stimulus Funding--from regular state WIA funds)

- Statewide Sector-based Bridge Program Curriculum Materials. Develop statewide model sector-based bridge program curriculum materials for healthcare, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, and information technology for both blended on-line and regular classroom instruction and make widely available to all eligible providers and provide free access to employers and workers through Illinois workNet. All existing CSSI and ICCB-funded curriculum materials should be used as a start. Note: Completed by Fall Semester, 2009.
- Outreach and Training to LWIAs. Provide outreach and training to LWIAs on how to use sector-based bridge programs as access points to occupational skills training programs for adults with low language and literacy skills so that they have access to stimulus training provided through WIA formula funding and other funding sources.