

Remarks – Saratoga Meeting 08-06-2009
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- Public investment in clean energy jobs has three primary objectives:
 - Stimulate job creation/job retention;
 - Support workforce development;
 - Advance Pathways Out of Poverty.

My remarks will address how the Department of Labor is supporting these.

Funding Under ARRA

- \$169.4M in Workforce Investment Act funding was made available to NYS under ARRA.
- Approx. 85% allocated to the state's 33 Local Workforce Investment Areas by formula.
 - The North Country, including Essex county, received \$1.9M;
 - Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties received \$1.2M;
 - Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties received \$3.4M;
 - The counties of Columbia and Greene received \$476,903;
 - Dutchess county received \$1.2M; and,
 - Ostego, Chenango, and Delaware counties received \$1M.
- Remaining funds support: Program administration; and State-level workforce initiatives:
 - Unemployed Workers (Worker Supply).
 - Incumbent Workers / Layoff Aversion (Worker Demand).
 - State Agency Collaboration.

ARRA Competitive Grants for Green Jobs Training

- On June 24, 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor released five solicitations for green job training totaling \$500M:
 - A. State Labor Market Information Improvement for \$50M.
 - B. Energy Training Partnerships for \$100M, to be spread over 20-30 projects (\$2 million to \$5 million each).
 - C. Pathways Out of Poverty for \$150M. National entities will receive grants of \$3 million to \$8 million; local entities will receive grants of \$2 million to \$4 million.
 - D. State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training, \$190 million.
 - E. Green Capacity Building, \$5 million (50 - 100 grants ranging from \$50,000 - \$100,000).
- The Governor's Office in consultation with state agencies has developed a comprehensive framework to address the five solicitations in order to maximize the state's potential to receive funding under these solicitations. NYSDOL has been given a lead role in this effort.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- The state's Weatherization Assistance Program is expected to: create approximately 4,200 jobs; provide skilled job training; and help meet future demand for workers in the clean energy industry.
- An assessment of the workforce needs of the state's WAP determined that the program needed access to skilled entry-level workers.
- NYSDOL and OTDA are working closely with DHCR to provide a continuum of training and job placement services, which will give public assistance recipients and unemployed individuals direct access to these jobs as well as other jobs created by the ARRA.
- Pursuant to ARRA requirements, all job openings resulting from investment of ARRA funds must be posted with the NYSDOL; and all applicable job titles must pay prevailing wages (e.g., the Davis-Bacon Act). NYSDOL business services representatives throughout the state will help weatherization subgrantees and contractors meet these requirements.

State-Level Workforce Initiatives

1. Emerging & Transitional Worker Training RFP

- ♦ On June 8th 2009, NYSDOL made \$10 million available (including WIA funds received under the ARRA) to for-profit and not-for-profit entities on a competitive basis to fund proposals ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for E&T Worker Training (RFP #Q-37).
- ♦ The deadline for proposals was July 8, 2009.
- ♦ The purpose of this solicitation is to provide low income unemployed individuals 18 years of age or older with the requisite skills and competencies to obtain employment and advance their careers.
- ♦ A priority of this solicitation is training to prepare disconnected young adults for entry-level jobs in the emerging Clean Energy Industry, and environmental justice.
- ♦ NYSDOL received 96 proposals and is currently getting ready to announce the awardees.
- ♦ 10 proposals were received from providers located in LWIAs within the 20th Congressional District.
 - Capital Region (7); Dutchess (1); Chenango/Del./Ots (1); North Country (1).

2. Disconnected Youth Training RFP

- ♦ On July 20th 2009, NYSDOL made \$2.5M available on a competitive basis to educational institutions and private for-profit or not-for-profit entities to fund proposals of up to \$50,000 for Disconnected Youth Training.
- ♦ The deadline for proposals is August 20th.
- ♦ The purpose of this initiative is to develop youth's skills in order to help them succeed as adults and prevent them from becoming disconnected from education and employment.
- ♦ Target disconnected youth as defined by the WIA, ARRA, and the Governor's Youth Cabinet.
- ♦ Priorities of this solicitation are youth ages 14 to 17; youth on probation; juvenile justice/incarcerated youth; youth of incarcerated parents; foster care youth; and youth with other barriers.

3. Building Skills in New York State (BUSINYS) RFP

- ♦ On June 8th 2009, NYSDOL made available \$5M for proposals of up to \$50,000 to train the incumbent workers of New York businesses and not-for-profit entities.
- ♦ Applications were due on July 20th.
- ♦ The purpose of this solicitation is to help businesses train their existing employees in specific transferable occupational skills needed by the businesses or their industries in order to remain competitive and avert layoffs.
- ♦ Contracts will be awarded for a period of up to 6-months.
- ♦ Over 200 applications have received, and NYSDOL has begun to review them.
- ♦ 31 proposals were received from businesses located in LWIAs within the 20th Congressional District.
 - Capital Region (12); Dutchess (5); Chenango/Del./Ots (6); North Country (1); Col./Greene (4); Sara/Warren/Wash. (3).

4. Shared Work Program

- ♦ Ongoing program to provide business with an alternative to layoffs.
- ♦ Under the program, businesses reduce the hours or wages of their employees and the employees collect partial UI benefits. This allows businesses to retain employees during slowdowns and quickly gear up when sales conditions improve.
- ♦ The Shared Work Program has been heavily marketed to businesses; it has seen a significant increase in applications over the past year.

5. Economic Response Team (ERT)

- ♦ Developing an Early Warning Dashboard and a web-site to house data on at-risk firms.
- ♦ WARN Notices, TAA Petitions, UI Claims Data, Shared Work Requests, D&B Stress and Credit Score Data.
- ♦ ERT comprised of Business Services and Rapid Response staff in NYC, Long Island, and lower Hudson Valley Regions.
- ♦ Use Contracted Consultants to provide diagnostic services, assess viability of firm, and provide stabilization/turnaround services.
- ♦ Develop broad partnerships to mobilize workforce and economic development resources to assist at-risk businesses.

6. Regional Economic Transformation Strategies through a Sector Based Approach

- ♦ In 2007-2009 NYSDOL awarded approximately \$7.7 million to foster a region's competitive advantage through sector-based strategies focused on talent attraction, talent development and/or talent retention (initiated July 3, 2007).
- ♦ \$4.1 million has been awarded to five regions in the State for innovative workforce training initiatives in green:
 - The North Country received \$1M for many sectors, including renewable energy; domestic security; aerospace; and biopharmaceuticals.
 - The Capital Region and Mohawk Valley together received \$1,050,000 for Advanced Manufacturing; Construction; Biotechnology; Energy; and Nanotechnology.
 - The Hudson Valley region received \$1,050,000 for Clean (Green) Technology; and,
 - Central New York received \$1M for Energy and Environmental Systems.

Conclusions

- State agencies must continue to collaborate, align and leverage their resources to assure that job creation, workforce development and pathway out of poverty are being addressed comprehensively.
- New York State's green jobs workforce development and training efforts must be aligned with the State's One-Stop System.
- We must continue to expand our workforce intelligence to include emerging green/clean technologies.