

**ARRA UPDATE: 10/27/09**

**Operations**

Much of the work and thinking from the Career Center Operation Review (Feb 2009) continues where many of the 22 tasks for improvement have been completed and other have been put on schedule to complete in the next couple of months. A few will also be integrated as "ongoing" into our process. Details will be available in a separate report in early November.

The Career Centers continue with their implementation of the "**triage**" **process** that speeds determination of whether or not a customer is "job ready."

To **improve communications** among economic development partners, the **Labor Needs Template** continues to be the primary tool to communicate job openings and employer needs.

Staffing has also been realigned under ARRA to accommodate the influx of customers requesting training. The expectation is not that there will be many "new" customers, but that more existing customers will be able to receive a **more intense level of service**.

As the WIB geared up for extensive youth activity and improving its overall communications strategy, a position was added to coordinate these needs.

Number of FTE's retained/realigned through ARRA	= 14.35
Number of new hires	= 1

**Additional Space: \$49,000** has been allocated to provide Career Center training and services at a location on Dover Street which is now up and running.

**Youth**

With a strong emphasis on summer youth programs, the state requested that 60% of youth funding be expended by September 30, 2009.

However, we expended 84% of ARRA youth funding by that date, thus **demonstrating the significant need for these funds in our region.**

Number of youth employed this summer under ARRA	=	430
Total wages paid to youth (paid through W/E 10/16)	=	=\$499,169
Number of ARRA youth programs funded	=	12
Current total funding for the 12 youth programs (current contracts not including youth wages)	=	=\$545,000

### **Group Training**

GNBWIB released two (2) Requests for Proposals (RFP) over the summer that align with **priority industries and populations** of the WIB. Final determinations for both of these procurements were ratified at the *September 30, 2009 GNBWIB Quarterly Meeting*, and announced at a press conference on October 26, 2009.

- a) **\$199,998.82** : In an effort to compliment numerous infrastructure projects, and to align with state and federal priorities to include "green jobs", the GNBWIB procured for weatherization/clean energy training for local participants.

**Awarded to:**

**-Bristol Community College**

- b) **\$260,000**: Individuals will receive access to either Pre-GED, GED or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) with a work readiness class. Both Work Certified (a 90-hour work readiness and certification program for academic level of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above) and Florida Works (a work readiness program for academic levels of 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will be used.

**Awarded to:**

**-New Bedford Public Schools (\$65,000)**

**-P.A.C.E., Inc. Child Care Works & The Family Center (\$65,000)**

**-Treatment Development Corp., Inc. (\$65,000)**

**-New Directions Southcoast, Inc. (\$65,000)**

Leverage: **\$30,000** of ARRA funds is being used to train the **Brownfields trainees in the 90-hour Work Certified training** and certification as part of the existing \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Training Grant received by the City of New Bedford.

### **Flexibility**

To date, 38 dislocated workers and 9 adults have taken advantage of more than \$142,000 in ARRA **Individual Training Accounts (ITA)**. ITA's are available for eligible customers and provide an average \$3k each for such occupational training as Certified Nursing Assistants, Commercial Drivers Licenses, Computer Office training, Microsoft training, Nursing, Business Management, etc. This is \$7,000 over the initial ITA projection for these funds.

These ITA's are in addition to those provided under the regular WIA allocation, which to date (May 2009), has been used to train over 135 customers in occupational skills.

The plan still includes **\$30k for short-term "enhancement" training** for individuals who do not take advantage of longer term ITA training. This is still being developed. As more dislocated workers come to the Career Center with "some skills," there is a growing need to offer "quick" skills training with the expectation that they will be more employable with the training in 1-3 months. The training may be of a customized nature, group training or might be "off the shelf" training; such as MS Excel, QuickBooks etc.

Because many who attend training do not have transportation (car repair, gas/bus vouchers) or child care, etc., **\$64k is still set aside to provide these Support Services** for those who may need it.