

# **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update**

**Sandi Vito, Secretary  
Department of Labor & Industry**

**PA Stimulus Oversight Commission  
October 30, 2009**

# Presentation Overview



- **Economic Situation**
- **L&I Programs Awarded ARRA funds**
- **Competitive Grant Opportunities**
- **Next Steps**

# Economic Situation



## United States

- 7,205,000 jobs lost since Dec. 2007
- Unemployment rate is up nearly 100% (was 4.9% in Dec. 2007, up to 9.8% in Sept 2009)

## Pennsylvania

- Over 208,000 jobs lost since Dec. 2007
- Unemployment rate up 91% since Dec. 2007
- Current PA Unemployment Rate is 8.8% (September '09)

# L&I Programs awarded ARRA funds



- **Workforce Investment Act** (existing)
- **AmeriCorp/PennServe** (existing)
- **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** (existing)
- **Unemployment Compensation** (existing and new)
- **Weatherization** (new)

# Workforce Investment

# Workforce Investment Act (WIA) ARRA Funds



<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>Awarded to PA</b>
<b>WIA Adult</b> (\$500 million nationally)	\$16,545,744
<b>WIA Dislocated Worker</b> (\$1.25 billion nationally)	\$42,482,006
<b>WIA Youth</b> (\$1.2 billion nationally)	\$40,647,780
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,675,530</b>

# Priorities for ARRA Adult & Dislocated Worker Funds



- **Promote long term economic growth through skills training**
  - On the Job Training
  - Longer term training
- **Transform workforce development system**
  - Require skill assessment prior to training
  - Promote connections to credentialing and certification
- **Promote coordination across all state and local agencies**
  - Actively promote use of best practices
- **Require accountability**
  - Intervene proactively to produce required outcomes

# L&I Workforce Impacts: WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker



**As of September 30, 2009**

## **Adult Outcomes:**

- 1,226 participants served
- 784 participants received training services

## **Dislocated Worker Outcomes:**

- 2,691 participants served
- 1,876 participants received training services

*Note: Data currently being compiled to report most up-to-date information on ARRA funded activity.*

*The U.S. Dept. of Labor requires monthly report on WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker activities which represent both formula-funded and ARRA-funded activity.*

*The information presented on this slide is specific to ARRA funded activities only*

# WIA Youth ARRA Funding



- **Expands eligibility up to 24 year old**
  - Regular Formula eligibility up to 21 years old
- **Focus on activity that leads to work in high demand occupations:**
  - educational enrichment
  - skills training and
  - supporting services
- **Work readiness is the only performance measure used to assess summer youth employment activities**

# L&I Workforce ARRA Impacts: WIA Youth



## Summer Youth Employment Program As of September 30, 2009

- 9,218 total participants (goal: 8,692)
  - 6,593 in-school
  - 2,625 out of school
  - 71% work readiness attainment rate
  - 73% summer employment completion rate
- Older Youth (ages 18-24) may receive continuing support through March 2010

# **AmeriCorps / PennSERVE**

# AmeriCorps



- Nearly \$2.8m awarded (\$1.2 formula; \$1.6 competitive)
- Ten (10) AmeriCorp programs are supporting the creation of employment and community service opportunities for approx. 540 young people throughout Pennsylvania.

## **Impact:**

- Programs served approximately 6,309 citizens (Feb 17-Sept 2009)
- Activities include:
  - Summer Enrichment Activities and Day Camps for children aged 14 and under;
  - Tutoring and Training aimed at youth from elementary through high school;
  - General Community Services benefiting a wide range of citizens (ie. homeless, mentally handicapped, youths in foster care);
  - Academic Coaching and/or Tutoring for school-age children;
  - Community Renovations or New Construction to benefit local residents;

# Vocational Rehabilitation

# Office of Vocational Rehab: Rehabilitation Services



- Over \$22 million awarded
- Develop & operate 12 projects that will help individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment
- Fund eight (8) innovative Independent Living Old & Blind projects to:
  - Improve leadership skills, sense of empowerment, independence and productivity
  - Promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into mainstream America

## **Activities Include:**

- Extensive on-the-job training at private employers
- Expand opportunities for driver training in modified vehicles; and
- Coordinate services to disabled veterans with other local service providers

# Office of Vocational Rehab: Indep. Living Centers



- Over \$552,000 awarded to PA
- Nine (9) Centers for Independent Living awarded grants of \$50,000 to increase service and participation rates
- \$100,000 for competitive program grants

## **Activities include:**

- Skills Training Seminars for consumers and staff
- Develop & operate enrichment program utilizing the arts as a transition method to independency



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

# **Unemployment Compensation (UC) Benefits & Modernization**

# UC Benefits



- Total of 79 weeks of UC benefits currently available
  - Up to 26 weeks of Regular State UC
  - Up to 53 weeks of ARRA related benefits
- An additional federal extension is being considered by Congress
- 892,209 individuals received some type of ARRA funded UC benefit since February 18, 2009
- To date, PA has paid out nearly \$1.2 billion in ARRA related UC benefits

# UC Benefits: Rolling Average of Recipients



*As of week ending Oct. 17, 2009*

- **Federal Additional Compensation (FAC):**
  - Provides additional \$25 weekly benefit
  - 446,603 claimants currently receiving this benefit
  - \$383.5 million in benefits paid to date
- **Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC):**
  - Provides up to 33 additional weeks of benefits
  - 166,398 claimants currently receiving this benefit
  - \$640.9 million in benefits paid to date
- **Extended Benefits (EB):**
  - Provides up to 20 additional weeks of benefits
  - 41,768 claimants currently receiving this benefit
  - \$140.3 million in benefits paid to date

# UC Modernization



## Administrative Grants

- \$9 million has been used to hire 50 PA CareerLink® specialists
- Direct reemployment assistance to approximately 50,000 UC claimants who have exhausted, or are likely to exhaust, their UC benefits.

## Incentive Grants

- \$273 million available to PA
- To qualify the following minimum changes to PA UC Law would need to occur:
  - Amend the law to allow for a movable or alternate base year if the claimant does not qualify under the current base year
  - Amend the law regarding refusal of suitable work as applies to part time workers
  - Amend the law to grant benefits for separations due to “compelling family reasons” (separations due to domestic violence, illness of a family member, or to follow a spouse to a new work location)

# Weatherization

# Weatherization Training



## **\$10 million from DCED to:**

- Organize and implement a skills certification process for weatherization workers and instructors
- Certify approximately 400 incumbent and train 1,000 new weatherization workers with the goal of weatherizing 30,000 housing units
- Establish 5-7 weatherization training providers across the Commonwealth using PA certified instructors and weatherization training curriculum.
- Organize three (3) apprenticeship training programs with one focused primarily on multi-family units
- Use the PA CareerLinks® to assess workers skills and award training vouchers

# Competitive Grants

# ARRA Competitive Grants



<b>L&amp;I Applied for:</b>	<b>Total Request</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>State Labor Market Improvement</b>	\$1.25 million	Enhance labor exchange infrastructure
<b>High Growth and Emerging Industry Sector Grants: Healthcare</b>	\$5.0 million	Focus on allied health workforce
<b>State Energy Sector Partnership</b>	\$6.0 million	Regional & Statewide strategies to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce
<b>Electric Power Sector (Due: Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>)</b>	\$5.0 million	Develop well-trained, highly-skilled electric power workforce that is vital to national clean energy smart grid
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17.25 million (incl. Electric Power Sector)</b>	

# Pennsylvania ARRA Statewide Competitive Grants



- Up to \$4million ARRA Federal Statewide Funds Leveraged with Formula Statewide Funds
- Based on ARRA priorities set by L&I
  1. Promote long-term economic growth through skills training
  2. Transform workforce development system
  3. Promote coordination across all state & local agencies
  4. Require accountability

# L&I: Next Steps

# L&I: ARRA Next Steps



- **Review of Best Practices**
- **Develop Impact Report**
- **Proactive Recipient Monitoring**

# Questions?