



One-Stop Career Centers: A Pivotal Resource for Economic Stimulus

President Obama intends to retrofit America – rebuilding infrastructure, promoting alternative energy, modernizing schools and extending broadband Internet service – by “investing in what works.” Fortunately, **a proven national system of local One-Stop Career Centers stands ready to tackle these urgent goals.**

In Maryland, the Workforce Investment Network for Maryland (WIN) offers an **infrastructure poised to move forward, fast**, the moment economic stimulus projects are approved. Maryland’s network represents 34 geographically dispersed One-Stop Career Centers, each offering a comprehensive array of services:

- Professional career counselors and state-of-the-art technology guide job seekers into high-demand occupations in high-growth industries. One-Stop Career Centers identify and recruit local job seekers, assess individuals’ skills, prioritize job candidates based on their employment readiness and work experience, craft job-specific training programs, match applicants to these training opportunities, and connect qualified people to jobs.
- One-Stop Career Centers work directly with businesses, speedily meeting their workforce needs. They help businesses grow and stay competitive through customized curriculum development and training, coordinated employment events and job fairs, and timely outplacement services to counter job loss due to downsizing.

Successful economic stimulus will demand prompt, effective connections between masses of unemployed people and a vast number of newly created jobs. **One-Stop Career Centers have the capacity, the expertise, the partnerships, and the reach to quickly connect the stimulus to the people and businesses that need it.** These centers are already the nexus of a partnership system involving state and local governments, businesses, postsecondary institutions, private training vendors, and many others. Plus, the federal government has already invested in this existing network of service providers.

Strengthening labor markets every day, in communities across the nation, One-Stop Career Centers offer the only comprehensive system poised to get people into jobs, right now. The proposed \$4 billion for job training includes funds for adult, dislocated worker, and youth services (including \$1.2 billion for summer youth employment). **With this marginal investment of new funds, the One-Stop system can gear up fast for the challenges ahead.**

A robust Summer Youth Employment program guarantees an immediate infusion of funds into local economies this summer, while ensuring productive engagement for teens and young adults and needed wages for them and their families. These Summer Youth funds must be retained in the final bill.

Invest in what works. Designate the Workforce Investment system and its network of One-Stop Career Centers as the service provider of choice in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

For more information, contact: Karen Sitnick, President, WIN, at 410-396-1910 or visit our website at: www.winformd.org