



Training is a Major Focus of the U.S. Stimulus Package

The massive \$787 billion dollar stimulus legislation, called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (HR 1), was signed on February 17th by President Obama. The bill is designed, in part, to stimulate the economy and to create millions of jobs across the United States.

The stimulus package includes more than \$5 billion in training for a variety of programs across a number of U.S. federal agencies. The bill will invest heavily in new technologies, infrastructure projects, and health care. It also calls for investments to help laid off workers get back to work. An important part of the legislation allocates \$3.9 billion to the Department of Labor. \$2.95 billion will be used for training and employment services through FY09. The Department of Labor has 30 days from Feb. 17th to allocate funding to the states.

As an ASTD member and learning professional, what should you know about this bill, and what can you do to help your organization take advantage of these opportunities? The majority of the training funds will be allocated through the publicly-funded workforce system. You can access information about how much of these resources are coming to your states and communities by reaching out to the executive director of your local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) or to the manager the local One-Stop Career Center in your community. Information about how to contact your local WIB or One-Stop Career Center may be found here: www.servicelocator.org/wibcontacts/.

A significant portion of training funding – \$750 million – is being devoted to competitive grants for high growth industries, and \$500 million of these funds will invest in projects as part of the new Green Jobs Act. If history repeats itself, the competitive grants will require active private-sector participation with community colleges or higher education institutions. Additional information about the grants will be available on the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration website: www.doleta.gov. In the meantime, if your organization is interested in partnering on a future grant opportunity, it is a good idea to reach out to the president of your local community college, technical school, or university.

With billions devoted to training, it is clear that U.S. lawmakers understand the important connection between learning, job creation, and economic recovery. This increased focus on training means that everyone in the workplace learning and performance profession has a huge opportunity to engage in the economic recovery efforts. Let's work together to help our organizations and communities make the best use of their investments in training and development.

The following is a summary of the training investments as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

<p>Department of Labor</p>	<p>Employment and Training Administration (\$3.9 billion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 million of grant funding to states for adult employment and training activities. • \$1.2 billion of grant funding to states for youth activities. • \$1.2 billion of grant funding to states for dislocated workers' employment and training activities. • \$200 million for dislocated national reserve. • \$50 million for Youth Build activities. • \$750 million for competitive grants for high growth industries. (\$500 million of these funds will fund projects under the new Green Jobs Act). <p>Community Service Employment for Older Americans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$120 million for worker training. <p>State Employment Service Operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 million for worker reemployment services.
<p>Department of Energy</p>	<p>Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability: \$100 million for worker training in these industries to support this effort.</p>
<p>General Services Administration</p>	<p>Federal Buildings Fund: \$3 million for training and apprenticeship programs to support the change to federal buildings.</p>
<p>Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Health Resources and Services Administration: \$500 million to address the healthcare workforce shortage, including grants.</p> <p>Children and Family Services: \$110 million for training services to support the program.</p>
<p>Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Federal Highway Infrastructure Investment: \$20 million for worker training to support the program.</p>
<p>Additional funding for education:</p> <p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Financial Aid to Students: \$15.6 billion for Pell Grants, \$4,680 per student</p> <p>Higher Education Tax Credits: Many tax credit changes and opportunities</p>

Source: The Workforce Alliance