



ARRA, WIA, PROCUREMENT & YOU

“An Outline of the Region's Workforce Development Funding Opportunities”

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

- The Workforce Investment Act was passed in 1998 to provide a national framework designed to meet the needs of both businesses and workers seeking to further their careers. To accomplish this, they authorized regional Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) to oversee the system. WIBs exercise a broad purview over many workforce-related programs funded from a variety of sources. Community needs are identified and a strategic consensus is developed among local leaders to ensure that training programs continue to meet the needs of local employers and job seekers.
- The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) is the region's designated non-profit agency responsible for WIA oversight. The annual budget ranges from \$5M - \$11M.
- The WIB oversees the operations of four (4) regional *CTWorks-East* One-Stop Career Centers located in Danielson, New London, Norwich, and Willimantic through a Consortium approach.
- The Workforce Investment System serves both the workforce and employers in the 41 towns located in Eastern CT.

WHAT ARRA MEANS TO THE REGION'S WORKFORCE

- Serve a significantly greater number of individuals at the 4 *CTWorks-East* Centers over the 12-18 month period
- **Influx of funds to support training for those challenged with current skills to refine, upgrade, refocus, etc.** (*training caps have been increased to \$6K, with an additional \$2,500 available for support services*)
- Put 650-700 income-eligible youth to work in a 6-week job (*several hundred worksites have been developed across Eastern CT*)
- **Expand the menu of workshops/services at *CTWorks-East*** (*A rolling Request For Quotations (RFQ) helps us to expand the menu of workshops available at the 4 *CTWorks-East* Centers*)
- **Create jobs and increase the use of On-the-Job Training** (*A requested modification of On-the-Job Training policy to increase reimbursement from a 50% level to a range of 50% - 90%*)
- **Green Jobs focus**

OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

- Weatherization
 - States receive funding (\$64.3M) through a formula, to regional Community Action Agencies & is administered by the CT Department of Social Services. Provides energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge to assist low-income families reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.
- The Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) Program
 - JFES is an employment program for Adults and Out-of-School minor recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
 - Over the past 3 years, the program has averaged placing 800 Eastern CT participants into jobs

- Services include: Developing Employment Plan; Intensive Case Management & Monitoring; Job Search; Intensive Basic Skills Remediation and High School Completion; Vocational Training; Work Experience; Job Placement
- The program has been slated for elimination in the upcoming State budget, which would:
 - › Eliminate all JFES client services on June 30, 2009
 - › Terminate employment of ~29 full-time *CTWorks-East* staff working with these clients
 - › Reduce staffing levels at the *CTWorks-East* Centers by 33%
- *Transportation-to-Work Collaborative*
 - Provides transportation assistance to those looking for work, and participating in training
 - Provides over 3,500 customers a year with rides
- *Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)*
 - CT STEM Careers Partnership Grant - Will provide enhanced coaching and training in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (*STEM*) to CT's disadvantaged youth, dislocated workers, & low-wage workers. The long-term impact will be increasing the competitiveness of CT's STEM-related workers & businesses by preparing the current & future workforce for future's high-wage jobs

LOOKING AT THE LONGER-TERM

- *Understanding EWIB's Procurement Process*
 - Numerous employment-related services are coordinated through a multi-year procurement process (*2010 is the next procurement year*)
 - Teaming efforts, or partnerships, are strongly encouraged, that provide effective and efficient services that cover the entire 41 towns in the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Area
 - Programs routinely procured are: Case Management; Workshops, & Training; Business Services; Technology Programs; Youth Services - *both in-school and out-of-school*
 - EWIB's typical procurement timetable looks similar to this:
 1. RFP(s) Released ~ Legal Notice - *January/February 2010*
 2. Bidder's Conference(s)
 3. Responses Due - *1 Month After Date of Bidder's Conference*
 4. EWIB Board Meets to Approve All Awards - *May/June 2010*
 5. Negotiations with Selected Vendor(s) - *June 2010*
 6. Services Begin - *July 1, 2010*

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Entities can qualify credentialed programs for inclusion on the State's Eligible Training Provider List (*ETPL*)
- By visiting EWIB's website (www.ewib.org), links are available for interested parties to be placed on the following lists:
 - The Eligible Training Providers List
 - The Request For Proposals e-Mailing List
 - EWIB's Board of Director's meeting notices e-Mailing List (*agendas & minutes*)
- For more information on any of the specific programs mentioned today contact: Carol LaBelle, EWIB Director of Programs at labellec@ewib.org