



News for Immediate Release

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Rendell Administration Celebrates Recovery Act Anniversary, Highlights Workforce Development Success

Recovery Act Delivers \$187 Million in Funds to Create Opportunity, Keep Workforce Competitive

Schnecksville, Lehigh County – On the one-year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dr. Robert Garraty today highlighted how the state has invested \$187.4 million in Recovery Act funds to help create jobs and training opportunities.

“The Recovery Act has opened doors for Pennsylvania’s workforce that otherwise would not have existed,” Garraty said during a visit to the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute. “The Department of Labor & Industry, its private and public partners, other workforce development agencies, training providers and academic institutions are working together to create and sustain opportunities for Pennsylvanians to achieve career-focused employment in the industries critical to the commonwealth’s economic recovery.”

Since the Recovery Act was signed on Feb. 17, 2009, the Department of Labor & Industry has received \$187.4 million in federal Recovery Act funding. With those funds, the Department of Labor & Industry, private and public partners, other workforce agencies and academic institutions have created employment and training opportunities for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

The Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, which is one of seven weatherization training sites funded through the Recovery Act, is but one example of how Recovery funding is have a positive impact across the state.

“Training providers, such as the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, are instrumental in helping prepare Pennsylvania’s workforce with the skills they need to secure and retain employment in some of our most important industries,” Garraty said. “The eleven-hundred Pennsylvanians set to receive Recovery-funded weatherization training around the state, and the employers they’ll be working for, are a great example of how the Recovery Act is making a positive difference for our state and all who live and work here.”

For more information about how the commonwealth is using federal Recovery Act funds to help Pennsylvania residents and businesses, visit: www.recovery.pa.gov.

Media contact: Christopher S. Manlove, 717-787-7530

Editor's Note: Details of the \$187.4 million in Department of Labor & Industry Recovery Act initiatives, as of Jan. 31, 2010, follow:

Workforce Development

- Weatherization Training - \$20 million
 - Six training centers
 - 1,100 installers, crew chiefs and auditors
 - 34,000 single- and multi-family units across the state will receive significant and high-quality energy reduction, conservation and weatherization treatment
- Workforce Investment Act - \$99.6 million
 - Nearly 3,700 adults in training since May 2009. (Includes OJT, ITA, customized training and skill upgrades)
 - Almost 6,000 dislocated workers in training since May 2009. (Includes OJT, ITA, customized training, and skill upgrades)
 - 9,458 youth placed in Summer Youth Employment
 - Wagner-Peyser - \$15.1 million
 - Competitive Grants Won
 - Pennsylvania's Green Labor Market Information Improvement Grant - \$1.25 million
 - Pennsylvania's Green Jobs Initiative - \$6.0 million

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Vocational Rehabilitation Services - \$20.9 million
- Independent Living - \$552,000
- Independent Living – Older/Blind - \$1.6 million

AmeriCorps – PennSERVE

- Formula - \$1.2 million
- Competitive Grants Won - \$1.6 million

Unemployment Compensation Modernization

- Administration Funds - \$19.6 million
 - Provides increased services for UC benefit claimants.
 - Used in conjunction with ARRA Wagner-Peyser funding to enhance re-employment efforts.
 - Portion of the funds earmarked to hire PA CareerLink[®] staff to assist UC claimants seeking services through the 67 PA CareerLink[®] locations.
 - Enable approximately 50,000 additional claimants to be called in for PA Re-employment Program through 2010, with approximately 36,000 receiving intensive re-employment services through 2011.

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