

Workforce Readiness in Arkansas

Senate Passes Jobs Bill Offering Tax Breaks for New Hires

Companies that hire the unemployed would claim new tax breaks under a jobs-promoting bill the Senate passed Wednesday, delivering President Obama and Democrats a much-needed victory.

WASHINGTON -- Companies that hire the unemployed would claim new tax breaks under a jobs-promoting bill the Senate passed Wednesday, delivering President Obama and Democrats a much-needed victory.

The 70-28 vote sends the bill back to the House, which passed a far more costly measure in December. Many in the House consider the Senate bill too puny, but they may simply adopt it and send it to Obama in order to get a win. Democratic leaders promise more so-called jobs bills are on the way.

The bill contains two major provisions. First, it would exempt businesses hiring the unemployed from the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax through December and give them an additional \$1,000 credit if new workers stay on the job a full year.

Second, it would extend highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year and pump \$20 billion into them in time for the spring construction season. The money would make up for lower-than-expected gasoline tax revenues. *Read more...*

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/02/24/senate-vote-jobs-passage-likely/>

COBRA Subsidy and UI Extension Signed Into Law

On March 2, 2010 the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 4691, the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 by a vote of 78-19. The President immediately signed this bill into law on March 2, 2010.

--SHRM Governmental Affairs—
www.shrm.org

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Hytrol Workforce Readiness Grant

The Workforce Training Consortium encourages innovative educational projects in Northeast Arkansas by awarding grants from the [Hytrol Workforce Readiness Fund](#).

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE EDUCATORS IN NORTHEAST ARKANSAS TO INSTILL HIGHER WORKFORCE READINESS SKILLS IN THEIR STUDENTS.

GRANT APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED AND AWARDED ANNUALLY. APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THEIR APPLICATION.

Deadline is **March 31, 2010**

The 2010/2011 Workforce Readiness Grant will be \$5,324.00

[Grant Application Form. pdf](#)

[Grant Letter.pdf](#)

For more information...

http://www.iwtc-near.org/hytrol_workforce_readiness_award.htm

Workforce Readiness Activities across the State

Labor Markets Poised for Recovery

Key Facts

- Employer payrolls fell 20,000 in January.
- The unemployment rate dropped to 9.7%.
- Average hourly wages for production workers up to \$18.89, 2.5% above last year.

Initial estimates show the economy exited 2009 with significant momentum-expanding at an annualized rate of 5.7%. Strong growth came as businesses worked to re-stock inventory levels in response to gradually improving demand at-home and abroad.

However, the inventory “boost” is viewed as temporary and the economy is expected to lose some momentum as stimulus programs fade and the number of jobless workers remains high.

Revised estimates now put the total number of jobs lost to the recession at 8.4 million.

--Kelly Services, Marketing Information.

NAHRA NEWS...

Our speaker / roundtable discussion for our March NAHRA meeting will be the “Career Readiness Certificate”; the advantages to the employer and the employee of taking advantage of the program, the steps and employer takes to get involved, etc.

---Billie Reed, Workforce Readiness Chair



ARKANSAS



CAHRA NEWS...

CAHRA continues to meet weekly to present job search strategies with residents of Little Rock’s Our House (working homeless shelter) and Redemption House of North Little Rock (addiction rehab center). In addition, CAHRA members are also meeting with members of Cradle Care (high school students with babies) in Faulkner County high schools. Other workforce readiness classes are being taught as needed to members of the Little Rock Air Force Base.

CAHRA workforce readiness courses to these groups include tips on

- Goal setting
- Resume preparation
- Interviewing best practices
- Networking and identifying job openings
- Tips to keep a job

Mark your calendar for the 2010 Workforce Readiness Core Leadership area Conference Calls and Webcast.

4/28 - Conference Call

9/15 - Conference Call

11/4 - [Webinar](#)

Please go to:

<http://www.shrm.org/Communities/VolunteerResources/Pages/CLAConCallWebinarSchedule.aspx>

At Work in 2020

1/1/2010 by Adrienne Fox

Shape your organization for the future by measuring workforce needs, analyzing trends and being open to new working relationships.

<http://www.shrm.org/Publications/hrmagazine/EditorialContent/2010/0110/Pages/0110fox.aspx>

Arkansas Incumbent Worker Training Program Funding Opportunity

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services announces the availability of up to \$150,000 in training funds to eligible Arkansas business applicants under the Arkansas Incumbent Worker Training Program.

The Arkansas Incumbent Worker Training Program provides funding for training projects that will benefit business and industry by assisting the skill development of incumbent workers, thereby increasing employee opportunities, and company growth and productivity.

Interested parties may find the Incumbent Worker Training Program application and instructions at <http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/Employers/IWTP.htm> or contact the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services at ADWS.IWTP@arkansas.gov.

In order to be considered for funding, interested parties must submit a completed IWTP application to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

Connect 2 Business® Matches Job Seekers with Businesses

In early November, Governor Mike Beebe announced Arkansas's Career and College Planning System, the next phase of Arkansas Works. Arkansas's Career and College Planning System is a statewide initiative that will equip students and adults with the skills and education required for the opportunities that await them. Similar initiatives have been highly successful in other states.

A critical component of this new initiative is Connect 2 Business®, a tool that helps adults find employment and students find internships and apprenticeships with local businesses. In turn, Connect 2 Business® provides businesses access to a pipeline of skilled workers, allows businesses to showcase themselves and their career opportunities, and helps students connect the relevance of their coursework to the real world of work.

Connect 2 Business® is a three-fold internet-based tool that is seamlessly integrated into Arkansas's Career and College Planning System; creates awareness of extended learning opportunities (ELOs) and job openings, and connects employers with the education community and adults in career transition.

Connect 2 Business® features include the following:

EMPLOYER

- Creates an online business profile to generate awareness about your company and/or organization.
- Posts extended learning opportunities such as internships, job shadows and apprenticeships that will prepare local students for the world of work.
- Posts job openings and reaches the best-suited individuals for your positions
- Sends messages to individuals with the interest, skills and work values that fit your needs.

STUDENT

- Searches ELOs through the student database.
- Explores Arkansas career opportunities.

ADULT

- Explores business profiles.
- Contacts employers directly to inquire and apply for jobs.

Benefits to Arkansas Businesses

- Brand and industry awareness – connect with a pipeline of highly trained, skilled workers in Arkansas.
- Targeted outreach for extended learning and job opportunities – increase enrollment in your opportunities with the best-suited students and adults.
- Direct communication with students and adults – get the word out about your ELO and job openings to students who have interests in your industry.
- Enhanced recruiting initiatives – improve your ROI with recruiting programs by matching opportunities to adults with the right interests, skills and work values.

How can you become a part of the Connect2Business® community? Getting involved in Connect 2 Business® is easy and FREE to all businesses in the state of Arkansas.

Visit www.arworks.arkansas.gov, click on Connect 2 Business® and sign up today!

For additional information, please contact Susie Marks, Connect 2 Business® Administrator at (501) 210-4206 or smarks@arkansasstatechamber.com.

NOARK NEWS...

The NOARK workforce Readiness committee is off and running. Since their award for Committee of the year and nomination for a Pinnacle Award last year the workforce committee is not only working to perfect their established and successful programs but to enhance and blaze new ground for progressive new programs. Our goal is to educate and meet the needs of the job seekers and the community as a whole. This year they want to engage more members from the general membership. The committee knows that if given the opportunity to volunteer and use their expertise the members will raise to the effort.

At this time the committee's efforts are moving fast in two programs at once. Their first team effort will be working with the Northwest Arkansas Job Fair in May. The event they call "Resume CPR" that assists job seekers create or makeover a resume that they can use at the job fair the same day. This was highly successful last year assisting over 150 participants. They hope to engage the NOARK members and utilize their expertise in resume writing event. Who would be better to look over resumes than HR professionals? The other event that is fast approaching is the partnership the committee has with the University of Arkansas' Upward Bound program that assists high school students through a Job Shadow Day. The committee coordinates the efforts with Job Shadow participants and employers.



News Release

ETA News Release: [02/04/2010]
Contact Name: Mike Trupo or Lina Garcia
Phone Number: (202) 693-3414 or x4661
Release Number: 10-0146-NAT

US Department of Labor announces results of
 'Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge'

*Voting tallied, public's favorite online tools
 posted*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the results of its Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge. Recommendations have been tallied, and the top-rated sites in each of six categories — general job boards, niche tools, career tools, career exploration tools, Web 2.0 and "other" — are now available at <http://www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools>.

News Release

ETA News Release: [01/29/2010]
Contact Name: Lina Garcia or Mike Trupo
Phone Number: (202) 693-4661 or x3414
Release Number: 10-0124-NAT

US Department of Labor awards \$225 million to Senior Community Service Employment Program grantees

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor today announced \$225 million in additional funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in fiscal year 2010. This funding was provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 to allow SCSEP grantees to immediately address unmet needs for employment and job training among low-income, older American workers.

Arkansas will receive...\$645,921

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100124.htm>

From the Editor...

Goodwill Industries International, Inc. has a new "Career Center" in Northwest Arkansas. It is located in Springdale. They provide employment services, education, training, and jobs. For more information please go to: <http://www.goodwill.org/about-us/>
 If you have any workforce readiness ideas going on in your communities please let me know.

Have a fabulous day!!!

Cathleen
 AR Workforce Readiness Director
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