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### Adult Education

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: U.S. Department of Education**

For more information on funding and related resources from the U.S. Department of Education, access

[www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html).

#### **Learning Around the Clock for Older Youth**

With an emphasis from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the U.S. Department of Labor on older youth, the following resource may be of value to practitioners: Learning Around the Clock: Benefits of Expanding Learning Opportunities for Older Youth. According to the resource, expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) are effective. These ELOs may include:

- Internships with employers,
- Independent study in alternative settings,
- Classes on college campuses for high school students, and
- Wrap-around support services.

Access the resource at [www.aypf.org/documents/LearningAroundtheClockBenefitsofExpandedLearningOpportunitiesforOlderYouth.htm](http://www.aypf.org/documents/LearningAroundtheClockBenefitsofExpandedLearningOpportunitiesforOlderYouth.htm).

#### **Rewarding Persistence: Effects of a Performance-Based Scholarship Program for Low-Income Parents**

Despite the benefits of achieving a two-year degree, research demonstrates that almost half of all students who matriculate at a community college drop out before graduating and they do not complete a degree at another college or university within a six-year timeframe. How can these drop-out rates be decreased?

This study looked at "...the effect of supplemental financial aid with an incentive component to encourage academic success and persistence." The performance-based scholarship program, Opening Doors, operated at two New Orleans-area colleges Opening Doors demonstration. With funding from the Louisiana

Department of Social Services and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the colleges offered students \$1,000 for each of two semesters (\$2,000 total). Students had to enroll in college at least half-time and they had to maintain an average grade of "C" or better. The findings included:

- The Opening Doors program encouraged more students to register for college.
- The program increased persistence.
- The program increased the number of credits students earned.
- The program had positive impacts on a range of social and psychological outcomes.

For more information, access [www.mdrc.org/publications/507/full.pdf](http://www.mdrc.org/publications/507/full.pdf) and [www.mdrc.org/project\\_31\\_91.html](http://www.mdrc.org/project_31_91.html).

### **Opening Doors Students' Perspectives on Juggling Work, Family, and College**

This report identified six main themes on how college students juggle work, family, and college:

- Working students typically take more than two years to complete college;
- Financial aid is a major factor affecting enrollment decisions;
- Balancing work, family, and college is difficult;
- Students need on-campus academic and personal support;
- A gap exists between the services available to students and students' awareness of them; and
- Students view individual faculty members as the "frontline" of their community college experience.

To access the resource, go to

[www.mdrc.org/publications/260/full.pdf](http://www.mdrc.org/publications/260/full.pdf).

## **Applicable to Multiple Audiences**

### **Exploring the Links Between Family Strengths and Adolescent Outcomes**

Recent research finds that "...family strengths are associated with significantly better outcomes for adolescents in both lower- and higher-income families. Family strengths include:

- Emotional/subjective strengths (such as close and caring parents);
- Behavioral/concrete strengths (for example, parental monitoring and parent involvement); and
- Passive parenting strengths (for instance, positive parental role modeling)."

In addition, these patterns were found for both lower- and higher-income families:

- Adolescents who reported having close and caring parents are significantly more likely to perform well in school. Higher parental monitoring and parent involvement are also associated with better school performance; and
- Adolescents in families with higher parental monitoring are more likely to avoid risky behaviors. Also, risky behaviors are significantly lower when parents are closer, more caring, and more involved.

Access the resource at [www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2009\\_04\\_16\\_RB\\_FamilyStrengths.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2009_04_16_RB_FamilyStrengths.pdf).

### **Guidance for Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The Government Accountability Office has issued three resources on implementing the Act at:

- [www.recovery.gov/files/Initial%20Recovery%20Act%20Implementing%20Guidance.pdf](http://www.recovery.gov/files/Initial%20Recovery%20Act%20Implementing%20Guidance.pdf),
- [www.recovery.gov/sites/default/files/m09-15.pdf](http://www.recovery.gov/sites/default/files/m09-15.pdf), and
- <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-7317.pdf> (addresses reporting).

## On the Map

This resource allows the user to customize five years of employment and segmented age, earnings, and industry data for local and regional areas in 46 partner states with respect to detailed analyses; illustration of how workers flow across state borders; produce and export reports and maps; view time-series animation over the five available years of data; and area profile and shed analyses for work and home areas in both local and regional geographies. To access this tool, go to <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/elearning/OnTheMap/player.html>.

## Recovery Act Implementation

To access the most recent update on the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by the Government Accountability Act, *As Initial Implementation Unfolds in States and Localities, Continued Attention to Accountability Issues Is Essential*, access [www.gao.gov/new.items/d09580.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09580.pdf).

## Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

### Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The Council was founded by Executive Order 13199. For a copy of the Order, access [www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/AmendmentstoExecutiveOrder13199andEstablishmentofthePresidentsAdvisoryCouncilforFaith-BasedandNeighborhoodPartnerships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/AmendmentstoExecutiveOrder13199andEstablishmentofthePresidentsAdvisoryCouncilforFaith-BasedandNeighborhoodPartnerships).

For a list of people serving on the Council, access [www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-Additional-Members-of-Advisory-Council-on-Faith-Based-and-Neighborhood-Partnerships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-Additional-Members-of-Advisory-Council-on-Faith-Based-and-Neighborhood-Partnerships).

### Four Goals of White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Joshua DuBois, Executive Director, shared the four goals of the Office:

- Reduce domestic poverty,
- Reduce abortion,
- Promote fatherhood, and
- Foster interfaith dialog abroad.

In addition, the White House will be reviewing whether or not to allow charities that receive Federal money to consider faith in their hiring decisions (find the Religious Freedom Restoration Act at [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/usc\\_sup\\_01\\_42\\_10\\_21B.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/usc_sup_01_42_10_21B.html)). The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides guidance and information on the exemption process at [www.dol.gov/oasam/grants/RFRA-Guidance.htm](http://www.dol.gov/oasam/grants/RFRA-Guidance.htm):

"The U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance to clarify the conditions under which the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993 allows recipients of DOL financial assistance to maintain their ability to make employment decisions based on religion even when receiving a federal grant under a program whose statute limits those rights.

This guidance, which implements a recent opinion concerning the proper construction of RFRA provided by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), creates a formal process for recipients of DOL financial assistance to seek an exemption under the RFRA.

The RFRA, as interpreted by DOJ and as implemented by this guidance, ensures that faith-based organizations are able to participate as partners in federal programs to help meet the needs of America's communities and retain the freedom to make employment decisions necessary to preserve their religious identity."

For information on the *Application of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to the Award of a Grant Pursuant to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act* (June 26, 2007), go to [www.usdoj.gov/olc/opinions/htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/olc/opinions/htm).

For more information on the announcement of the four goals, access the Pew Forum at <http://pewforum.org/news/display.php?NewsID=17857>. For more information on the Executive Order 13199 that established the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, access [www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/AmendmentstoExecutiveOrder13199andEstablishmentofthePresidentsAdvisoryCouncilforFaith-BasedandNeighborhoodPartnerships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/AmendmentstoExecutiveOrder13199andEstablishmentofthePresidentsAdvisoryCouncilforFaith-BasedandNeighborhoodPartnerships).

## Welfare/TANF Initiatives

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

For funding information and related resources on the Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, access [www.hhs.gov/recovery](http://www.hhs.gov/recovery).

### **\$5 Billion Additional Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Funding Available**

Learn more about the additional funding available through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In order to receive the funding "...a state must demonstrate an increase in the number of families receiving assistance from the TANF program or an increase in expenditures on employment subsidies or short-term, one-time benefits in at least one quarter during Fiscal Years 2009 or 2010." In addition, "...the Recovery Act provides states with more flexibility in using TANF funds unspent from prior years to assist families in need and temporarily modifies the caseload reduction credit to ensure states are not punished as the number of families seeking assistance increase during these difficult economic times. The Recovery Act also continues a supplemental grant program that provides additional support to 17 states with growing populations." For more information, access [www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090403a.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090403a.html).

### **Providing Unpaid Work Experience Opportunities for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Recipients: Examples from Erie County, New York; Montana; and Hamilton County, Ohio**

In Erie County grantees restructured their existing work experience program with several goals in mind:

- "Increasing participation in federally countable work activities by making work sites more accessible to recipients,
- Regenerating local communities by expanding services available at local community centers, and
- Encouraging families to become involved with and invest in their communities."

Key program features of the Erie County program include:

- Work placements located in neighborhoods where recipients live;
- Specialized placements for those with high service needs;
- Paid work site supervision with low staff-to-participant ratio;
- Up-front screening to refer only work-ready Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients;
- Job development staff to aid with transition to unsubsidized, competitive employment;
- Subsidized work placements; and
- Incentives for contracted service providers to identify and report nonparticipation quickly.

In Montana programs are standardized statewide. They target the entire work-mandatory TANF caseload, including those who are hard to employ. Contractors provide all case management and employment and training services, including work experience for TANF recipients. Montana is geographically a very large

state with a large Native American population with unemployment rates of 50 percent or higher.

Key features of the Montana program include:

- Tiered work placements in the community based on recipients' employability,
- Employability assessments to assign level of work placement,
- Structured training plans to define work site activities,
- Weekly performance appraisals and time-limited placements to encourage progress,
- Case managers who work frequently and intensively with a limited number of recipients (15 to 25 recipients each),
- Work experience coordinator who serves as a liaison between recipients and employers, and
- Skills training for recipients in their work placement.

In Hamilton County, Ohio TANF administrators rely on work experience as a primary work activity for their roughly 2,800 work-mandatory people.

Key features of the Hamilton County program include:

- Individualized community placements;
- Educational institutions that offer work experience placements to those enrolled in secondary or higher education;
- Work experience administered by a collaboration of agencies, each providing specialized services;
- Vocational assessments used to match recipients to appropriate work placements; and
- Work sites that offer skills training and work supports.

Access this resource at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/TANFWPR/3/report.pdf>.

## Strategies for Increasing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Work Participation Rates

To learn of strategies from various states, access the resource *Providing Paid Employment Opportunities for TANF Participants Engaged in Vocational Education Programs: Examples from Colorado, Kentucky, and California*. Two features of the successful programs include:

- "...opportunities to combine education and work, providing extra income, exposure to the world of work, and a strategy for meeting work participation requirements for TANF recipients; [and]
- They hire dedicated staff to provide personal support to participants and act as a liaison between the community college in which the programs are housed and the TANF agency."

The benefits include:

- The combination of vocational education with paid or unpaid work opportunities, along with strong case management, can make the most of the limited time clients can devote to vocational education activities to meet participation requirements (simultaneous education activities need not count toward the 12-month limit on countable participation in vocational education).
- Colleges/institutions of higher education connect businesses with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients that might otherwise shy away from hiring them.
- The combination of vocational education and work experience can be a win-win situation for TANF recipients who may have had negative experiences at school, but find value and satisfaction in learning relevant to the workplace.

Access the resource at

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/TANFWPR/1/index.shtml>

- *Local Implementation of TANF in Five Sites: Changes Related to the Deficit Reduction Act*, [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/welfare\\_employ/local\\_impl/reports/five\\_sites\\_reduction/five\\_sites\\_reduction.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/welfare_employ/local_impl/reports/five_sites_reduction/five_sites_reduction.pdf);

- *Innovative Employment Approaches and Programs for Low-Income Families*, [www.urban.org/publications/411467.html](http://www.urban.org/publications/411467.html); and
- *Using Work-Oriented Sanctions to Increase TANF Participation Rates*, [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/wrconference/presentations/KauffDerrPavetiMartin.ppt](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/wrconference/presentations/KauffDerrPavetiMartin.ppt)

### **Using Data to Monitor and Improve the Work Participation of TANF Recipients: Examples from New York City and Utah**

New York City and Utah responded to the higher work participate rates required of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 by modifying their data collection and reporting systems to support a goal-oriented approach to increasing the work participation of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients. In both states TANF program data is being used in new ways to:

- Make a timely determination about which recipients are not meeting work requirements, and
- Inform strategies used at the case management, supervisory, and administrative levels to engage recipients in work activities.

"Each site took specific steps to make the participation rate goals relevant to staff and the data management strategy useful to case managers. Because the participation rate depends on the actions of each recipient, program administrators felt that case managers needed to see the connection between their practices and the indicators and outcomes being tracked. The indicators used in New York City measure the timeliness of the application, engagement, and sanction processes, and in Utah the state provides case managers with more efficient tools to track the status of each recipient."

For a copy of this resource, access <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/TANFWPR/2/index.shtml>.

## **Workforce Development**

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding: U.S. Department of Labor**

Those interested in seeing how much each state received from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) for the Act and for other resources related to the USDOL, access [www.dol.gov/Recovery](http://www.dol.gov/Recovery).

### **Green Jobs**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act envisions "...3 million new jobs by helping companies retool and retrain workers to produce clean energy and energy efficient components or end products that will result in residential and commercial energy savings, industry revenue, and new green jobs throughout the country." The U.S. Department of Labor has a variety of information available on green jobs at [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov) (it is necessary to scroll down).

To view their framework for action regarding green jobs, access [www.doleta.gov/pdf/No\\_Workers\\_Frame\\_0306.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/pdf/No_Workers_Frame_0306.pdf). web sites are available:

- [www.americangreenjobs.net](http://www.americangreenjobs.net) and
- [www.doleta.gov/business](http://www.doleta.gov/business).

### **Guide for Employers Who Recruit, Hire, and Retain Employees with Disabilities**

The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy released *Diversifying Your Workforce: A Four-Step Reference Guide*. The resource includes topics such as incentives and return on investment, recruiting, interviewing, and hiring, and provides a variety of links and other resources. Access the resource at [www.dol.gov/odep/documents/Flip%20Guide\\_FINAL\\_3%2030\\_508%20compliant2.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/Flip%20Guide_FINAL_3%2030_508%20compliant2.pdf).

### **Lower Living Standard Income Level**

For a copy of the most recent Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) (corrections to Tables Four and Five), access [www.doleta.gov/llsil](http://www.doleta.gov/llsil). For a complete copy of the LLSIL, access

[www.doleta.gov/DINAP/pdf/DOL-LLSIL2008.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/DINAP/pdf/DOL-LLSIL2008.pdf).

### **New ReEmployment Portal**

Access the new ReEmployment Portal from the U.S. Department of Labor at [www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment](http://www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment). Resources are available on such topics as:

- Dealing with job loss,
- Health care coverage,
- Job hunting after job loss,
- Networking during a recession, and
- Unemployment benefits.

### **Occupational Outlook Quarterly**

For a copy of the spring 2009 quarterly, access [www.bls.gov/opub/ooq](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ooq).

### **Promising Practices for Youth**

*YOUTH Today*, a newspaper on youth work, has a section on promising practices for such topics as:

- Anti-Drug Programs Get Off Drugs,
- Plugging-In Disconnected Youth,
- Teaching Kids to Raise Their Kids,
- Teaching Youth to Invest in Themselves, and
- Youth Work's Immigration Movement.

Access the newspaper at [www.youthtoday.org/publication/results.cfm?department=1](http://www.youthtoday.org/publication/results.cfm?department=1).

### **Spotlight on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The U.S. Department of Labor has collocated all of their resources on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at [www.doleta.gov/usworkforce](http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce).

### **Waiver Information**

For information on waivers from the U.S. Department of Labor, access [www.doleta.gov/waivers](http://www.doleta.gov/waivers).

## **Calendar of May Events**

**Updates are constantly being added to the 2009 Calendar.**

**To access new information please visit the One Source Calendar.**

**May 1 ♦ WEBINAR ♦** Are You Ready? Tips for Measuring Work Readiness for Youth Under the Recovery Act ♦ Workforce3One  
♦ [www.workforce3one.org/view/5000910643776065645/info](http://www.workforce3one.org/view/5000910643776065645/info)

**May 5-11 ♦ CONF ♦** National Rural Health Association Annual Conference  
♦ National Rural Health Association ♦ Miami, FL ♦ [www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual)

**May 6 ♦ Web Conference ♦** Building Blocks For Kids: Creating Intervention Systems That Support Young Children's Healthy Development ♦ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago  
♦ NGA Center for Best Practices ♦  
[https://chapinhall.webex.com/mw0305I/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=chapinhall&service=6&main\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fchapinhall.webex.com%2Fec06001%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D278305471%26siteurl%3Dchapinhall%26%26%26](https://chapinhall.webex.com/mw0305I/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=chapinhall&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fchapinhall.webex.com%2Fec06001%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D278305471%26siteurl%3Dchapinhall%26%26%26)

**May 7** ♦ **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day** ♦ "Thriving in the Community"  
♦ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ♦ SAMHSA ♦ [www.samhsa.gov/children/](http://www.samhsa.gov/children/)

**May 13** ♦ **WEBINAR** ♦ Housing, Health Care, and Other Forms of Discrimination Against People with Alcohol/Drug Histories ♦ Partners for Recovery Initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Abt Associates and the Legal Action Center  
♦ [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=724860](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=724860)

**May 14-16** ♦ **CONF** ♦ 2009 Nonprofit Congress ♦ National Council of Nonprofits  
♦ New Orleans, LA ♦ [www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=659847](http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=659847)

**May 16-19** ♦ **CONF** ♦ 2009 National Summit on Entrepreneurship  
♦ Association for Enterprise Opportunity ♦ Arlington, VA  
♦ [www.microenterpriseworks.org/index.asp?bid=2764](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/index.asp?bid=2764)

**May 19-20** ♦ **CONF** ♦ Timely, Targeted, Transparent: Investing in New York's Workforce  
♦ Workforce New York 2009 Spring Conference ♦ NYATEP-NYSDOL  
♦ Albany, NY ♦ [www.nyatep.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4847](http://www.nyatep.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4847)

**May 27-29** ♦ **CONF** ♦ Managing Technology ♦ Governing  
♦ Minneapolis, MN ♦ To receive additional details about this year's event contact: [governing@conferencedepartment.com](mailto:governing@conferencedepartment.com)

**May 28** ♦ **WEBINAR** ♦ Medication-Assisted Treatment: ♦ Special Anti-Discrimination Issues  
♦ Partners for Recovery Initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Abt Associates and the Legal Action Center  
♦ [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=724860](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=724860)

**May 31 - June 3** ♦ **CONF** ♦ 20 Years of NAWDP: Celebrating the Profession ♦ NAWDP  
♦ Minneapolis, MN ♦ [www.nawdp.org/Content/NavigationMenu/WorkforceDevelopment/AnnualConference/2009\\_Conference.htm](http://www.nawdp.org/Content/NavigationMenu/WorkforceDevelopment/AnnualConference/2009_Conference.htm)