



A partner in **CTWORKS**
The Workforce Association

March 13, 2009

Memo to: Legislative Advisory Committee Members

Subject: Actions taken at Thursday, February 12, 2009 meeting

Attendees: Clarke King, Joan Jacobs, Lee Erdmann, Maureen Moriarity, Rob Michalik, Steve Cassano and Tom Mongellow

Staff: Tom Phillips, Sandy Rodriguez, Jim Boucher and Suzanne Dutilly

Federal Update

- American Resource and Recovery Act
- WIA Reauthorization
- FY'09 Appropriations Continuing Resolution
- FY'10 Budget
- Congressional One-Stop Visits
- US Conference of Mayors Communications Strategy

Tom Phillips noted that CWP will receive approximately \$ 6.7 million for adult training, youth and Dislocated Worker training in the **ARRA**. He said that 50 percent of the funds must be obligated within 120 days and any dollars that are not used within two years must be returned. He added that all but one Workforce Investment Act (WIA) performance measure will be waived for the Youth funding only. Tom Mongellow asked if the money will be used to train people for other career opportunities and Tom Phillips replied that the bulk of the funding is for dislocated workers and youths ages 18-24 and that other training can be offered for projected growth sectors. He added that if we can keep the state funding, if maintained, for youth along with this new federal money, we could serve 9,000 youths statewide this summer. He said we are currently seeing a 40 percent increase in traffic at the One-Stops and the majority of those people are dislocated workers. Steve Cassano asked if CWP gets the names of companies that are laying off or closing and Tom replied we do if the company applies for Rapid Response. Clarke King asked how we plan to fill infrastructure jobs and Tom replied we are looking to the Jobs Funnel and are also researching weatherization and Green Jobs.

Tom noted there was a congressional subcommittee hearing on **WIA Reauthorization** Thursday, February 12, and the **FY'09 Appropriations Continuing Resolution** runs through March.

Rob Michalik noted there may be some earmarks this year, and Joan Jacobs noted the earmark request form for 2010 is on Senator Lieberman's website and the deadline for applications is February 23.

Tom Phillips reported that Senator Lieberman, and Congressmen Murphy and Courtney visited the Enfield and New Britain **One-Stops** in late December and mid-January and Congressman Larson and Senator Dodd plan to visit the first week of April. He noted the Enfield One-Stop saw a 100 percent increase in traffic compared to last year at this time.

Tom Phillips briefly reviewed the **U.S. Conference of Mayors Key Priorities** for the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. They include Green Jobs, eradicating poverty and youth violence, and emphasis on youth employment and prisoner re-entry.

Tom said CWP has applied for an **Older Worker Demonstration Grant** from US DOL and only 12 grants will be awarded nationally. He said the proposal addresses the issue of how we can create job paths for older workers who want to stay in the job force.

Tom also referred to the USDOL press release announcing a **\$22 million National Emergency Grant** to assist workers affected by financial industry layoffs in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Connecticut will receive \$2,625,312 that will be distributed in Fairfield, New Haven and Hartford Counties. Steve Cassano requested a copy of the grant and said Connecticut loses federal funding every year because money is allocated to counties and we do not have counties.

State Update

- 1. Governor's Proposed Bi-annual Budget**
- 2. Existing Projects**
 - **Youth Employment**
 - **TANF/JFES**
 - **Incumbent Worker Training**
 - **Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program**
- 3. Proposed Projects**
 - **Green Collar Jobs Creation**
 - **CT Conservation Corps**
 - **Middle High School**

Jim Boucher, CWP's Director of Youth Services, provided a short PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program and noted that the federal economic stimulus package is primarily for high school drop-outs with very little funding for in-school youths. In addition, eligibility requirements are set at or below federal poverty guidelines, which means only the poorest of the poor will receive services.

Steve Cassano said the Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) was an important agency for the workforce boards and now the Governor has gotten rid of it. Tom Phillips replied OWC will become the Middle College.

Tom also said the Governor is eliminating \$3 million for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) and is competitively bidding out the contract.

It was agreed the next meeting would be Thursday, March 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.



A partner in **CTWORKS**

April 13, 2009

Memo to: Legislative Advisory Committee Members

Subject: Actions taken at Thursday, March 19, 2009 meeting

Attendees: Jenny Contois, Joan Jacobs, John Larkin, Lee Erdmann, Marie Kirkley-Bey (by phone), and Steve Cassano

Staff: Tom Phillips, Sandy Rodriguez, and Suzanne Dutilly

Federal Update

- ARRA Planning and Implementation Update
- Other Workforce Development Related Formula and Competitive Grant Funds
- Approved FY'09 Omnibus Bill
- Proposed FY '10 Budget
- Congressional Member One-Stop Visits
- Pending Competitive Grant Proposals
- WIA Reauthorization

Tom Phillips noted that CWP will receive \$1.2 million for adult training, \$3 million for Summer Youth Employment and \$2.5 million for Dislocated Worker training in the ARRA. In addition, DOL will be releasing \$750 million in competitive grants in the next 40 to 60 days, and CWP is looking at funding in other areas including \$100 million from EPA for Brownfields projects. CT is getting \$63 million for weatherization with CRT getting \$12 million. Twenty percent of that amount will be for training people to do energy audits and installation. He said that the four Jobs Funnels in the state are the key to getting the trained employees to do both the infrastructure and weatherization jobs. Tom added that the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services is getting \$3.3 million to provide job training for people with handicaps.

He said CWP will be providing on the job training for the first time in a long time, and plans to provide more technology at the One-Stops in order to make them more efficient.

He also noted that because of the WIA income requirements, out of the 1900 youth we served in our summer program last year, more than half that number will not be eligible. To illustrate, he noted that a youth from a family of four with an income of \$26,000 per year is not eligible to participate in the summer program because they are considered "not poor enough."

State Update

- Summer Youth Employment-Update
- TANF/JFES
- Incumbent Worker Training/Governor's 21st Century Job Training Program
- Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program
- Middle College-State Agency Reorganization

Tom reported that over 800 families statewide have been served in the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program and we hope the program will be maintained although there is no new money in the budget for it. He added that the Governor's 21st Century Job Training Program is still in the state budget but it will be included in the Middle College Initiative. He said the state's WIBs are asking the governor to move \$2 million to the Summer Youth Job Program from the \$7.5 million budgeted for the Conservation Corps. Marie Kirkley-Bey said she had not heard any more on the Middle College initiative but will try to find out what's going on and get back to Tom with the information. She added CWP should try to work with the CT Department of Social Services that has federal dollars to train women so they can find jobs, get off welfare and out of shelters.

It was agreed the next meeting would be Tuesday, April 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the New Britain Room on the third floor at One Union Place, Hartford. The committee will prepare its report on state and federal revenues for delivery at the April 30 Board Meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting

June 5, 2009

In attendance: State Representative, Marie Kirkley-Bey; Bruce Douglas, Clarke King, John Larkin, Maureen Moriarity, Lee Erdmann, Steve Cassano

Staff: Tom Phillips, Sandy Rodriguez, Pam Nabors, Jim Boucher

- \$5.5 million Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding for Jobs First services – ZEROED OUT of the Governor’s Budget – approx. 50% of the State’s One-Stop budget; affects all clients enrolled. WIA stimulus funds not eligible to replace these funds.. In North Central CT alone, that means 6,000 TANF recipients (not working or not employed to self-sufficiency) a year, 2,700 caseload at any given time and 50 Case Manager Positions will be eliminated and 4 CWP core staff. Will need to cease services and close some centers. Those ready for training will not be trained. State will end up paying MORE and serving MORE, removing the “orientation gateway” for program qualifications.
- Marie indicated, pressure needs to be brought to bear to move money now – The state’s other 4 Boards need to be more vocal. Testimonies of youth are helpful.
- Steve indicated last couple of weeks have been shameful for the state.
- Possibility of the \$11 million being released in a special session week of June 15th brought up for discussion.
- Conservation Corps funds – Marie indicated there are \$2.5 m allotted, of which a targeted amount will be committed to bringing kids to parks, but we may be able to access the remainder.
- **ACTION** – for Congressman Larson to convene the delegation to go after the state to pass through the Federal WIA 09 formula funds that were committed to Connecticut constituents – NOW. Chris Murphy has already started to make some calls.
- **ACTION** – John Larkin will arrange a conference call with the WIB Directors for a statewide response. CWP is leading a communications strategy with consistent messaging.
- **ACTION** – There will be a conference call with the CT Commissioner of Labor, Monday June 8 at 8:30am – John Larkin has requested to be on that call.
- Board is asked to consider stepped up assertiveness with the local press and/or a full-fledge rally at the Capitol the week of June 15 or June 22.
- Marie indicated last year’s budget was bad; this year’s is awful – it essentially declares war on the poor.
- **ACTION** – the Board will be laying out various bare bones operations scenarios next week.
- Bruce suggested a public response is warranted – a rally of 200+ outside the Capitol is what is needed. Activate all agencies impacted, i.e. SAMA, OPP, HART... Include a Petition.
- Jobs Funnels budgets are being cut 75%. Activate organized labor.
- Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program at risk – 1,000 on waiting list.

Next Meeting planned for July 8th, at 2:30pm; focus in part on WIA reauthorization (Sept)