



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jessica McLeish
951.805.1236
Jessica@dmpublicrelations.com

Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County funded with \$15 million from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dollars will be used to train and support county's workforce and local business, and summer work readiness programs for youth

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (April 27, 2009) –The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County, a public-private board that directs federal funding to develop a trained and skilled workforce in the county, announces it has received \$15,838,299 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds are being distributed to workforce investment boards in local areas throughout the nation, and each area's allocation is calculated based on its unemployment numbers or need.

Of the ARRA funding allocated to the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board, approximately \$7 million will be utilized toward youth work readiness programs and approximately \$8 million to provide services to adults and laid-off workers in the county.

Services provided by the Workforce Investment Board with this funding include ongoing business retention, workforce training, youth work readiness development and support services for qualifying employees or dislocated workers who are in training, which can include uniforms, tools, gas and more.

“The Workforce Investment Board's goal is to more than double the number of county residents it placed in training last year, and we hope to train approximately 2,000 county residents with this funding,” said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. “This training will be focused in the county's largest employment sectors. These sectors include health care, aviation, transportation and logistics, manufacturing and green industries.”

The Workforce Investment Board will also focus on training for skills that translate across multiple industry sectors. It is developing a matrix of the top skills needed by employers in the county that have an aging workforce, so that residents can build skills that will apply in multiple industries.

-More-

ARRA Funding

Page 2 of 2

The Workforce Investment Board will also serve approximately 1,560 additional youth through summer employment readiness programs to help ages 14 to 24 gain work experience and build job skills.

“Nothing is more important to our county’s economy than helping to support our employers and build the skills of our workforce,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt. “We support the Workforce Investment Board’s effort and we know this work will make a difference in the lives and careers of many San Bernardino County residents.”

About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It strives to create a strong, vibrant economy by developing the county’s workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations.

The Workforce Investment Board, through the county’s Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the county’s Employment Resource Centers and Business Resource Centers. The Employment Resource Centers provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the Business Resource Centers support and provide services to the county’s businesses including employee recruitment.

###