

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 146
MARCH 15, 2010**

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT UPDATE

The Workforce Board is the recipient of two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) demonstration grants and a federal appropriation awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. They are:

1. The Energy Sector Partnership Grant: *Energy Efficiency Training for Washington's Green Economy*
2. The Health Care Sector Grant: *Health Care Career Pathways from Long-Term Care to Acute Care*
3. The Workplace-Based Learning federal appropriation of \$850,000 is to create demonstration projects that provide low income adults with education and training that is at least partially delivered at the workplace and through digital methods. The aim is help entry-level workers move up the career ladder into high wage, high demand positions. These demonstrations advance the pilots that were requested but not funded in 2008 legislation SB 6295.

The Energy Sector Partnership Grant provides \$5.9 million over three years to train targeted populations in high demand, professional-technical occupations needed for energy efficiency in commercial and public buildings. The goal is to create a ready supply of skilled workers for the energy efficiency sector and put participants on career paths with recognized credentials in hand. In total, the grant will serve over 5,400 participants.

The Health Care Sector Grant totals \$5 million over three years and focuses on:

- i. Advancing entry-level workers along the nursing pathway, beginning with Certified Nursing Assistants and Medical Assistants through Licensed Practical Nurses and, ultimately, reaching Registered Nurses. The grant will move hundreds of workers up this high-demand career ladder by recruiting, supporting and training them in a health care setting.
- ii. Providing jobs in long-term care and creating career transitions to acute care by recruiting and training job seekers in the advanced home care aide apprenticeship, and providing a seamless pathway to acute, hospital health care.
- iii. Expanding the state's healthcare educational capacity through workplace learning opportunities, online classes and recruiting more clinical instructors.

The grant has a target to train 550 workers for higher paying, high demand positions. The grant will also create 350 vacancies in entry-level positions, with opportunities for advancement.

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board on the grant and appropriation proposals.

This tab includes summaries of the three proposals.

Board Action Required: None. For discussion purposes.