



BOS / RA-L2009-549778

**WORKFORCE SYSTEMS LETTER NO.: 09-02, Change 1****DATE:** April 9, 2009

<b>EFFECT:</b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>INFO</u></b>	<b><u>ATTACHMENTS</u></b>
	[X] SWAs	[X]	[X]
	[X] UI Directors	[X]	[X]
	[X] LMI Directors	[X]	[X]
	[X] Community-Based and High-Growth Grantees	[X]	[X]

**SUBJECT:** Region 1 Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forum: Registration Reminder and Draft Agenda

1. **Purpose and Background:** On March 19, 2009, the Regional office issued Workforce Systems Letter (WSL) No. 09-02 to announce its Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forum, which will take place on April 28-30 at the Langham Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. This follow-up letter provides a detailed draft agenda for the Forum and encourages participants to register as soon as possible and no later than the April 14<sup>th</sup> deadline.

As mentioned in WSL 09-02, the Region 1 Forum is an action planning session designed to build on the lessons and challenges of the Reemployment Works! Summit in Baltimore in the context of the American Recovery and Reemployment Act (ARRA). Forum attendees will receive the latest ARRA information and will engage in working sessions to initiate action planning focused on building foundations for economic recovery and reemployment opportunity.

Pre-forum work is recommended to help prioritize challenges and leverage expertise available at the forum. Materials are stored on the Reemployment Works! Web site located at (<http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org>) and includes the Baltimore Summit materials (workshop materials and reemployment wikis) and the reemployment Webinar series.

2. **Target Audience:** The forum and workshops are designed for state and local operational and policy experts with a role in providing recovery and reemployment services to Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants and dislocated workers, including those shown below:

- Unemployment Insurance directors and staff
- State Workforce Agency directors and staff
- Rapid Response coordinators
- State and local Workforce Investment Board directors and staff
- One-Stop Career Center managers and staff
- Workforce Information directors and staff

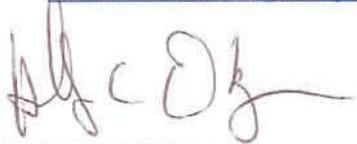
- Representatives of Community-Based and High-Growth Job Training grantees
- Registered Apprenticeship program representatives
- ES, Trade, and WIA operational and policy experts

We encourage good representation by states to maximize recovery-focused, state-specific action planning opportunities.

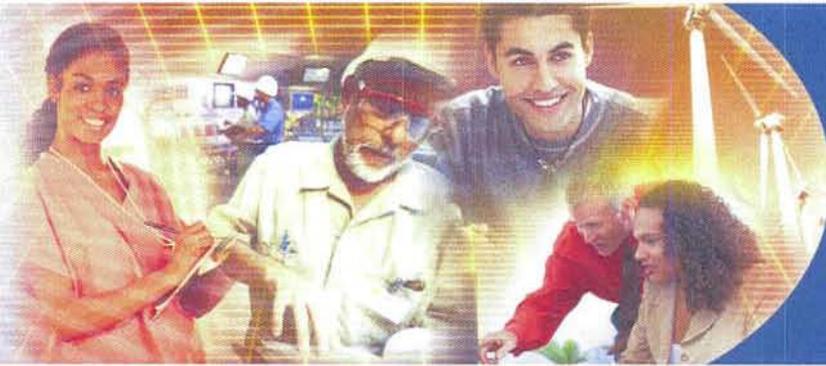
3. **Registration:** We encourage attendees to both register for the Forum and to make hotel reservations as soon as possible. Please visit the Region 1 "landing page" on the Reemployment Works! Web site at [http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/region\\_1](http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/region_1). *The deadline for both forum registration and hotel reservations is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.* Please note, the hotel cannot guarantee the government rate after this date.

**Post-Forum Activity for Local Investment Area Staff:** All local workforce area staff attending the Forum are also encouraged to participate in a post-forum session to learn about ETA's Recovery Act Readiness Consultations with state and local workforce investment areas. The post-forum session will be held on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visit [http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/region\\_1](http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/region_1) to view the Readiness Consultation Tool. State Labor Commissioners will soon be receiving more detailed information on this post-forum session. Questions on this ARRA Readiness Consultation session may be directed to Mr. Richard Chavez, Chief of the Regional Office's Division of Workforce Investment, at (617) 788-0133.

4. **Inquiries:** If you have questions concerning Forum registration, please contact Mr. Chris Dang at (202) 693-3952 or [dang.christopher@dol.gov](mailto:dang.christopher@dol.gov). For questions concerning Forum programmatic content, please contact Ms. Amanda Shaffer at (617) 788-0115 or [shaffer.amanda@dol.gov](mailto:shaffer.amanda@dol.gov).



Holly C. O'Brien  
Acting Regional Administrator



## REGION I Regional Recovery and Reemployment Summit

**Langham Hotel – Boston, Massachusetts**  
April 28 – 30, 2009

### **DRAFT Conference Agenda**

#### **DAY 1: TUESDAY – APRIL 28, 2009**

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

##### **Welcome**

- Secretary of Labor Hilda S. Solis – Invited

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

##### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

- Ray Uhalde, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary of Labor

*This session will provide an overview of ARRA and highlight the opportunities this legislation provides to American workers, employers, and the workforce investment system.*

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

##### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Ray Uhalde, Senior Advisor, Office of Secretary of Labor

Panelists:

- Gay Gilbert, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, U.S. DOL/ETA
- Cheryl Atkinson, Administrator, Office of Workforce Security, U.S. DOL/ETA
- Erica Cantor, Administrator, Office of National Response, U.S. DOL/ETA

*This panel discussion will provide Forum attendees an opportunity to hear from and ask questions of ETA leadership on program-specific implementation issues related to key ARRA components.*

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

##### **State Team Planning Sessions**

- Grace Kilbane, Administrator, Region I, U.S. DOL/ETA

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

##### **Break**



3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

**Breakout Session #1 – Identifying Short-Term Opportunities**

*ARRA funds provide our system with an incredible opportunity to respond to economic challenges. This facilitated state team breakout session will provide attendees an opportunity to develop short-term actions they can pursue within the following five focus areas: Skills Assessment, Skills Transferability, Training Strategies, Actionable Workforce Information, and Rapid Response/Early Warning Networks. The goal is to develop agreed-upon short-term actions to achieve an “ideal vision” of the future workforce investment system.*

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Networking Session**

**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY – APRIL 29, 2009**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

**Super Sessions**

**Getting it Right: Accountability and Program Performance Reporting Requirements under ARRA**

*Show your success! Performance tracking and outcomes are your best way to show ARRA in action -- be sure to make everyone count. In this session, presenters will address the formal program and reporting guidance, discuss what data ETA will collect and how, and take your questions. Performance is for everyone! This session will be geared to all areas and levels of the workforce system.*

Panelists:

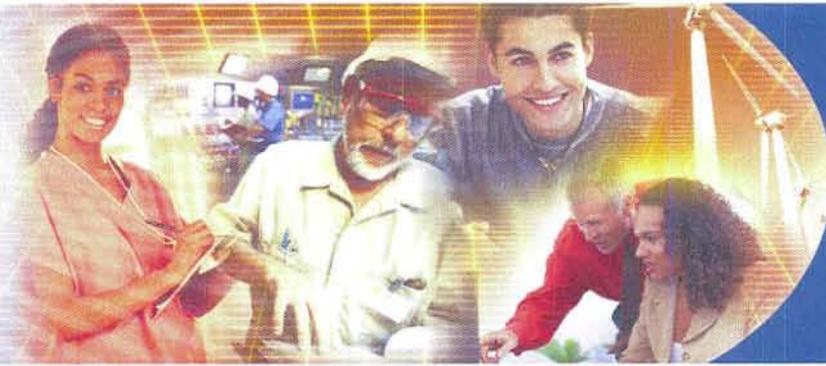
- Evan Rosenberg, Unit Chief, Youth Policy and Performance Unit, U.S. DOL/ETA
- Mike Qualter, Analyst, Office of Workforce Investment, U.S. DOL/ETA

**Green Jobs: What Are the Opportunities and Challenges?**

*“Green jobs” have received a great deal of attention recently. Join this session to learn more about the unique opportunities and challenges the workforce investment system must address to help workers connect to these high-growth opportunities, and to help employers prosper by connecting to skilled “green” employees.*

Panelist:

- Aaron Fichtner, Director of Research and Evaluation, Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University



9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

## **Workshops**

### **Using Skill Assessments to Facilitate and Expand Recovery and Reemployment**

*Weaving together old and new, New York and Maine are working to expand assessment opportunities through worker profiling tools and reemployment and eligibility assessments, with a dual-customer focus on both employers and job seekers. Learn about your colleagues' strategies for using various tools to enhance assessments and thus improve strategic decision making to benefit employers and job seekers.*

Presenters:

- Douglas Reamer, Director of Workforce Innovation, New York State Department of Labor
- Laura Boyett, Unemployment Insurance Director, Maine Department of Labor

### **Implementing Recovery Act Investments: A Dialogue with Federal Partners**

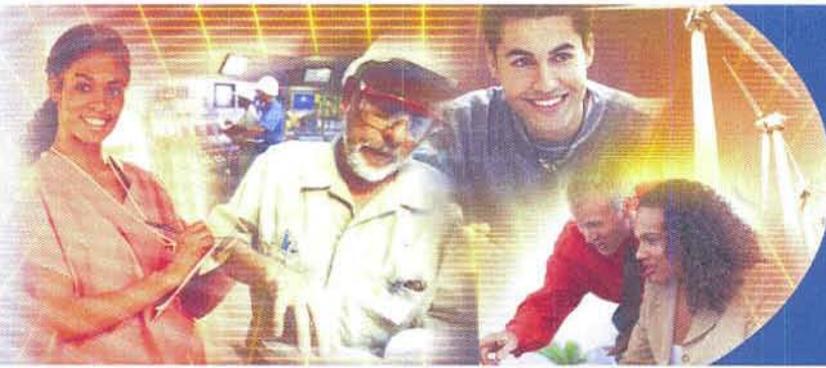
*A panel of Federal partners will discuss Recovery Act funding and programs from their various agencies' perspectives, with a focus on the workforce system's role in promoting economic recovery through leadership in "shovel ready" initiatives and other efforts. This session is designed as a dialogue to provide participants with a deeper understanding of interagency Recovery Act programs that may provide the workforce system's customers with new reemployment and career opportunities.*

Presenters:

- Evan Rosenberg, Unit Chief, Youth Policy and Performance Unit, U.S. DOL/ETA
- Joy Tinker, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families
- Noah Berger, Program Manager, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration
- Barbara Manning, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Regional Administrator Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

### **Using Local Employment Dynamics (LED) to Guide Your Economic Recovery Efforts**

*Planning strategic responses to the various economic shocks caused by the recession can be improved by using the more advanced features of LED and its free, robust online tools. A Census Bureau representative will describe how states are using LED to plot their economic recovery and reemployment strategies. In addition to learning about applied use of LED, participants will also see key features of the powerful OnTheMap tool, which shows the relationship among workers, their residences, and their jobs, as well as features of Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI Online).*



Presenters:

- Colleen D. Flannery, Chief, Educational Resources Branch, U.S. Census Bureau
- Dr. Jeremy Wu, Program Manager, Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau

**Effective Rapid Response Strategies for Non-Traditional Customers**

*Come learn how states across the country are delivering Rapid Response services to non-traditional customers that have been affected by the economic downturn. Also, hear what Massachusetts is doing to provide a full range services to new customers, including public service and white collar professionals.*

Presenters:

- Maria Heidkamp, Senior Project Manager, Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University
- Ken Messina, Manager, Rapid Response, Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development, Division of Career Services

**Connecting Workers to High Growth Opportunities - ARRA and Beyond**

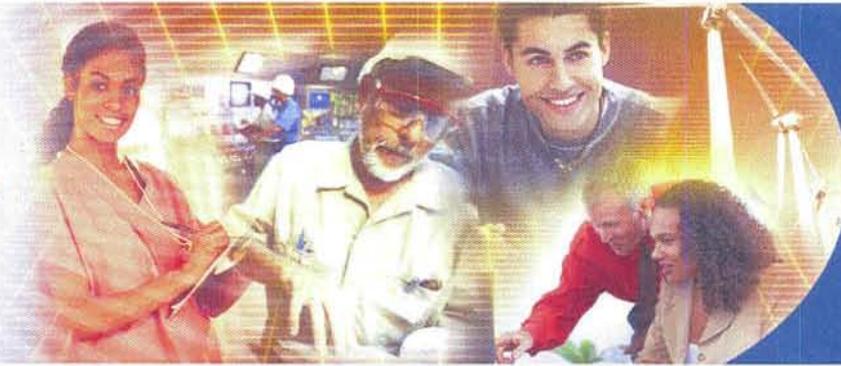
*This session will cover the State of Maine's skills transferability strategies as they relate to current recovery efforts and long-range opportunities to better understand the skills sets and needs of the dual customer: employer and job seeker. With the recent economic challenges and infusion of ARRA funds, Maine plans to focus on skills transferability to ensure investments are made strategically so the state can realize long-term economic growth. Come learn about Maine's system-wide approach to ensure its workforce investment resources support economic growth and prosperity.*

Presenter:

- John Dorrer, Director, Center for Workforce Research/Information, Maine Department of Labor

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

**Break**



10:45 – 12:00 a.m.

## **Workshops**

### **Statistical Targeting for Recovery and Reemployment**

*States will soon begin providing reemployment services to large numbers of UI claimants through RES grants and supplemental Wagner-Peyser funds as a result of the ARRA. To rapidly assess the individual reemployment needs of this diverse pool of claimants, prioritize service and customize treatments based on individual claimant characteristics and needs. Take advantage of existing data and predictions, including worker profiling scores, UI claimant data, labor market information, and labor exchange to assign claimants to groups with similar characteristics. These claimant groups can then be matched with the services most appropriate for their needs. This presentation will show how to use these data to develop related groups of claimants and to suggest broad types of treatments based upon these groupings.*

Presenter:

- Scott Gibbons, U.S. DOL/ETA

### **The Front Line – Working with Customers to Bridge the Skills Gap**

*The State of Indiana has taken measureable steps to coordinate state and local efforts to improve the way the workforce system provides reemployment services to the unemployed worker segment of the talent pool. This case study will focus on how Indiana used the TORQ tool to analyze the skills gap of dislocated workers from the airline industry to the competency requirements of jobs in growing/emerging sectors.*

Presenters:

- Hope Clark, Director, Research & Market Development, Indiana Workforce Development
- Dick Judy, Chairman & CEO, Workforce Associates, Inc.

### **Training Models for Developing the Green Jobs Talent Pipeline**

*Understanding existing and emerging or anticipated green job opportunities is a key priority for the workforce system. As we begin to learn more about where green jobs will be growing, it is equally important that we implement training strategies to build the green jobs worker pipeline. This session will explore various existing models for green jobs talent development, including innovative uses of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), customized training, and Registered Apprenticeship.*

Presenters:

- Pat Nagy, Director of Apprenticeship, Vermont Department of Labor
- Suri Duitch, University Director of Adult and Continuing Education, City University of New York
- Linda Smith, (title forthcoming), Projects Unlimited



### **Using Data and Data Tools to Drive Reemployment Strategies**

*In rapidly changing, dynamic regional economies, the need for real-time data is paramount; this data must drive reemployment strategies and service delivery. New Jersey is using three tools to help provide customers with real-time information about industries, occupations, and job opportunities. New York is using administrative claimant data and other available data sets and tools to identify businesses with workforce shortages and then connect those businesses with the skilled workers needed to support business profitability. Learn how these states are using data to shape recovery strategies and develop reemployment opportunities in challenging economic times.*

Presenters:

- Yustina Saleh, Labor Market & Demographic Research, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Peter Neenan, Ph.D., Director Division of Research and Statistics, New York State Department of Labor

### **Layoff Aversion and the Role of a Strategic Early Warning Network**

*Come learn about New York's efforts to implement a Strategic Early Warning Network across a range of industries. Presenters will share a range of experiences that will highlight the importance of strategic planning to avoid layoffs.*

Presenters:

- Douglas Reamer, Director of Workforce Innovation, New York State Department of Labor
- Tom Croft, Executive Director, Steel Valley Authority

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

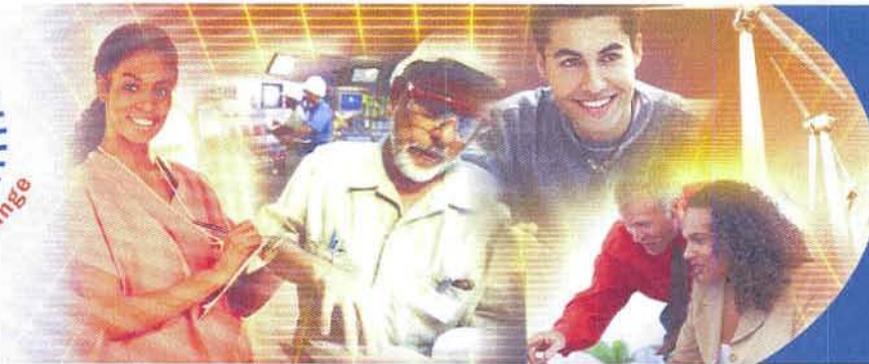
**Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Workshops**

#### **Using Assessments Effectively to Serve Youth and Dislocated Workers—Best Practices**

*Front-line staff can improve employment outcomes and retention when comprehensive assessment models and workforce information are used together to connect youth and dislocated workers with identified growth opportunities. This session will highlight youth-focused innovative assessment practices. Attendees will also participate in a scenario-based presentation on the effective selection and use of assessment tools for dislocated workers.*



**Presenters:**

- Dennis Mink, Future Workforce Services Coordinator, Capital Workforce Partners, Hartford CT
- Wanda Brown-Claitty, Director of Experiential Learning, Our Piece of the Pie, Hartford CT
- Lauren Fairley-Wright, Workforce Analyst, U.S.DOL/ETA

**Connecting Workers to Careers in High Growth Occupations – One Local Area's ARRA and Reemployment Efforts**

*With the current economic downturn and recent infusion of ARRA funds, the workforce system is in a unique position. This session will cover one local area's effort to strategically invest funds in unemployed workers to help them transition into high-growth industries. This session will also discuss the local area's strategies to ensure that its ARRA investments not only address short term challenges, but also result in long-term system changes that will help workers transition into new careers; employers fully leverage its local talent; and ensure the workforce system helps foster community growth.*

**Presenter:**

- Joe Carbone, President/CEO, The WorkPlace, Inc., Connecticut
- Deborah Beaudoin, Employment Services, Operations Manager, Connecticut

**Creating Summer Employment Experiences for Older Youth**

*Renewed emphasis on summer youth employment programs provides new opportunities to engage and support older youth. This session will explore demonstrated work experience program models for youth aged 22 – 24. Leaders from ETA's Youth Division will facilitate the conversation and showcase several replicable models for summer programs for older youth and effective program models of work experiences for older youth ages 22-24.*

**Presenters:**

- Donna Cathey, Vice President, Integrated Programs, Our Piece of the Pie, Hartford, CT
- Jackie McGravey, Future Workforce Division Manager, Capital Workforce Partners, Hartford, CT
- Dr. Susan McNamara, Executive Director, Chautauqua Works, New York
- Wendy Geronimo, Case Management Coordinator, Youth Options Unlimited (Y.O.U.), Boston



### **Using Workforce and Economic Information to Understand Green Jobs**

*One of the challenges of developing the green jobs talent pipeline is that we don't always know exactly what green jobs are, where they exist now or will emerge in the future, or what kind of education and training is required for them. Workforce organizations across the country are investing significant time and resources in exploring these issues through analysis and applied use of workforce and economic data and information. This session will present what these organizations have learned thus far, as well as areas requiring further exploration and research.*

Presenters:

- Maria Heidkamp, Senior Project Manager, Rutgers University, Heldrich Center for Workforce Development
- Roger Therrien, Director, Labor Market Information, Connecticut Department of Labor

### **Linking Trade, National Emergency Grants and Rapid Response into a Comprehensive Service Delivery Strategy**

*The Recovery Act brought about major changes in the Trade program and National Emergency Grants. Federal staff will provide an update and overview of the changes to these programs to raise awareness of the full range of services that dislocated workers are eligible for under these programs.*

Presenters:

- Jeff Ryan, Transition Management Specialist, U.S. DOL/ETA
- Grace Kilbane, Administrator, Region I, U.S. DOL/ETA

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

**Break**

2:45 – 5:00 p.m.

### **Breakout Session #2 – Identifying Long-Term Opportunities**

*Put your state team to the test using the new ideas, innovations, and opportunities available that you have heard since Tuesday. How can we make thoughtful decisions to position the system for long-term transformation and sustainability? State teams will continue to develop action items around the five focus areas. However, this session, and tomorrow's session, will focus on longer-range opportunities. How will the state position itself to achieve its ideal vision of the future workforce investment system, particularly given the unique opportunity the ARRA provides?*



**DAY 3: THURSDAY – APRIL 30, 2009**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

**Strengthening One-Stop Career Centers**

*This talk will examine cost-effective ways for One-Stop Career Centers to help more unemployed workers find jobs and build skills that will spur future growth. Three separate ways to increase One-Stop's ability to serve unemployed workers during the current recession will be discussed:*

- (1) improving the accountability system to accurately measure the value of job search assistance (JSA) and training, and relating benefits to costs;*
- (2) speeding unemployed workers' return to work by increasing the number of jobs listed with public labor exchanges and by calling in more UI claimants to receive high quality JSA; and*
- (3) improving counseling services to help more unemployed workers succeed in high-return skills training programs, and providing the necessary funds to offer more training programs and opportunities.*

Presenter:

- Louis S. Jacobson, Senior Economist, CAN, The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**State Breakout Session #3 – Identifying Long-Term Opportunities**

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

**Break**

10:45 – 12:00 a.m.

**State Report-Outs and Closing Session**

- Grace Kilbane, Administrator, Region I, U.S. DOL/ETA

*How can we position the workforce system for the future? Let's meet the challenges ahead by working together to enhance our services and put Americans back to work. In this session, state teams will share their innovations, strategies, and approaches so we can get on the road to recovery and reemployment.*