



\$7.3 Million in ARRA Stimulus Projects Target Employment for Ohioans with Disabilities

COLUMBUS (September 25, 2009) –The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) today announced the award of \$7.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus projects to benefit Ohioans with disabilities.

“These stimulus funds are critical,” said RSC Administrator Michael Rench. “This \$7.3 million will strengthen RSC’s statewide network of services for Ohioans with disabilities. These projects will reduce waiting lists; provide valuable work experiences and more intensive services to help Ohioans get better jobs faster.”

“These stimulus dollars give Ohioans with severe disabilities opportunities to re-enter the workforce or maintain their employment in this extremely competitive environment,” said RSC Commission Chair Bruce Growick.

The \$7.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars invested in RSC were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Education. Plans are currently being developed for an additional \$10 million in stimulus funds the RSA has just awarded Ohio.

The 19 projects outlined below were selected from 60 different competitive proposals that were reviewed by a panel of state vocational rehabilitation experts and RSC’s state agency partners.

Last year RSC helped 9,370 Ohioans with severe disabilities succeed at finding steady employment. Examples of vocational rehabilitation services include: individualized counseling, job assessments, job placement assistance, supported employment, rehabilitation and assistive technology, on-the-job training and support, and assistance with college or other technical training required in securing a job.

“We want to help more companies recruit and hire workers with disabilities,” Administrator Rench said. “These diverse workers are proven to be more reliable, have excellent attendance and safety records and they stay on the job longer. It’s a win-win situation for Ohioans and Ohio companies.”

For those Ohioans with disabilities who are unable to work, RSC also provides disability determination for Social Security Disability Insurance.

Anyone can refer someone to RSC. For more information, visit www.rsc.ohio.gov

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The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is to partner with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes.

| Organization | Area/Counties Served |
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| Center of Vocational Alternatives (COVA) Award: \$500,000.00 | Southeast (Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Ross) |
| Providing a variety of orientation, intake and assessment services. | |
| Cleveland Sight Center/Business Enterprise Award: \$200,000.00 | Statewide |
| Develops an accessible online 13 Module training program for potential Business Enterprise operators to be operational no later than April 16, 2010. Provides training services including evaluation, orientation, online and in-state training and residence center services. | |
| Cleveland Sight Center/Call Center Award: \$277,761.00 | North (Cuyahoga) |
| Provides a facility-based call center training program. Includes assessment, PREP training, job-seeking skills training, placement services, assistive technology training and residential center services. | |
| Coleman Professional Services Award: \$403,962.00 | Southeast/North (Portage, Stark, Trumbull and Summit) |
| Comprehensive evidenced-based supported employment program for consumers with mental illness. Includes vocational evaluation, community-based assessments, benefits consultation, job development and placement, job coaching and follow-along services. | |
| Columbus Speech and Hearing Award: \$451,206.00 | Southeast/North (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking and Richland) |
| Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program including soft-skills training, internships, job development and placement and follow-along services. | |
| Columbus Speech and Hearing Award: \$15,626.00 | Southeast/North (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking and Richland) |
| Provides ADA training to employers for the purpose of educating employers about the ADA while building relationships that will lead to increased job opportunities for consumers of the VR program. | |
| Enterprise Works Award: \$470,023.00 | Statewide |
| Provides self-employment services to consumers to include strengthening existing businesses and new business start-ups. Includes self-employment assessments, training, technical assistance and follow-up services. | |
| Functional Training Services (FTS) Award: \$412,780.00 | Southeast (Fairfield, Hocking, Pickaway, Perry and southern Franklin counties) |
| Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for entry-level positions in the areas of building maintenance, auto-related services, clerical, customer service, janitorial/housekeeping, retail and food service jobs. Includes basic assessment services, skills training, internships, job development and placement and follow-along services. | |

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Goodwill Easter Seals Miami
Valley/Ex-Offender
Award: \$328,500.00

Southwest (Montgomery, Clark, Greene, Miami)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for consumers with criminal records with a special emphasis on those who are homeless. Includes basic vocational assessments, community-based assessments, community-based work adjustment, certification training, job development, placement and retention services.

Goodwill Easter Seals Miami
Valley/Veterans
Award: \$328,500.00

Southwest (Montgomery, Clark, Greene, Miami)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for veterans with disabilities. Includes basic vocational assessments, community-based assessments, community-based work adjustment, certification training, job development, placement and retention services.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral
Health Services
Award: \$356,722.00

Southwest (Hamilton)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for ex-offenders with severe mental illness. Includes basic assessment services, job seeking skills training, job development and placement, job coaching, follow-along services, cognitive behavioral vocational therapy and travel training.

Linking Employment, Abilities
and Potential (LEAP)
Award: \$484,266.00

North (Lorain, Cuyahoga)

Comprehensive community employment program including vocational assessments, employee development classes, community-based assessments, community-based work adjustment, job development and placement and follow-along services.

MetroHealth System North
Award: \$409,600.00

(Cuyahoga)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for consumers who have had traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or stroke. Includes assessment, adaptive equipment for computers, work conditioning, wellness groups, internships, placement and coaching.

NetWork
Award: \$411,761.00

North (Lucas, Wood, Henry, Fulton, Paulding,
Williams, Defiance, Putnam)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program including environmental assessments for individuals with autism, vocational awareness assessment groups, job-seeking skills training, job club, individualized job development and placement, and work experiences.

NetWork/Partners in Employment
Award: \$98,923.00

North (Lucas, Wood, Henry, Fulton, Paulding, Williams,
Defiance, Putnam)

Provide a variety of assessment services to RSC consumers. Includes employment-readiness assessments, career assessments, job-shadowing experiences and informational interviewing.

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Nord Center
Award: \$264,182.24

North (Lorain, Erie, Sandusky)

Comprehensive supported employment services for RSC consumers with mental illness. Includes community-based assessments, career exploration, job development and placement, job coaching, follow-along services, job-seeking skills training, travel training, academic skills enhancement, vocational training, interpreting services and individualized benefits analysis.

Rehabilitation Services of North
Central Ohio
Award: \$237,507

North (Ashland, Knox, Crawford, Huron, Morrow,
Richland and Marion counties)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for individuals with mental illness in Richland County and individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in Ashland, Knox, Crawford, Huron, Morrow, Richland and Marion Counties. Includes job-seeking skills training, vocational training, job development and placement, and job coaching services.

Rehabilitation Services of North
Central Ohio
Award: \$58,131.00

North (Ashland, Knox, Crawford, Huron, Morrow,
Richland and Marion counties)

Provide a variety of orientation, intake and assessment services in Ashland, Knox, Crawford, Huron, Morrow, Richland and Marion Counties.

Spectrum of Supportive Services
Award: \$275,000

North (Cuyahoga)

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for consumers with mental illness. Includes benefits-analysis, personal adjustment services, job development and placement and job retention services.

TDH Enterprises
Award: \$344,844.00

North (Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca), North,

Comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program for transitional youth and ex-offenders. Includes vocational assessment, community-based assessments, job seeking skills training, work experiences, job development and placement, job coaching and follow-along services.

Vocational Guidance Services (VGS)
Award: \$468,168.00

Southeast (Cuyahoga, Erie, Lorain, Huron, Lake
Ashtabula, Geauga, Trumbull, Portage, Franklin,
Delaware)

Provides a job placement program for consumers including individualized job development and placement and short-term paid work experiences.

VocWorks
Award: \$499,081.00

Statewide

Provide a variety of orientation, intake and assessment services.

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