



CITY OF BOSTON · MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Mayor
Thomas M. Menino

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**Mayor Menino Releases ARRA Funded RFP
for Job Training Program Providers**
*\$550K Available to Assist Unemployed or Low-Income Residents
Upgrade their Skills & Gain Employment*

Mayor Thomas M. Menino this week announced a release of \$550,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding through a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking partnerships between providers of occupational skills training and employers who expect to have vacancies to fill in the near future. The funding is targeted to assist Boston residents who are unemployed or low-income and need to upgrade their skills to improve their opportunity to gain employment in these tough economic times. **A bidders' conference will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, in the Rabb Lecture Hall.**

"My administration is constantly working to bring new opportunities for jobs and economic advancement to Boston's residents," Mayor Menino said. "With our strong network of non-profit job training organizations and committed private sector employers, I have no doubt that these funds will be put to good use – lifting incomes, putting residents back to work and building stronger communities."

"Workforce partnerships between employers and community organizations are a very effective way to invest job training dollars," said Dr. Gary Gottlieb, president of Brigham and Women's Hospital and chair of the Boston Private Industry Council. "This new stimulus funding gives us the opportunity to generate innovative approaches to connect the unemployed with the economy as it recovers."

The City of Boston received \$1.8 million in ARRA funding through the U.S. Department of Labor to provide a variety of career counseling services and skills training for adults. In addition to the newly released funds, the remainder of the ARRA funding will provide training opportunities for an additional 140 individuals through Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), which are training vouchers accessed through Boston's One-Stop Career Centers. The Career Centers – The Workplace, Boston Career Link and JobNet – will also receive funding to assist them with providing services to the significantly increased numbers of job seekers needing information, referrals and support in landing their next job.

Due to the very tight labor market in Boston, the City hopes to see deep employer involvement in any proposed programming, which could include curriculum development, on-site internships and any other intervention which would give a trainee a leg up in gaining employment at the end of the program. Looking to serve the broadest range of Bostonians, with the most appropriate intervention, the RFP invites a variety of programming, including:

- **Occupational skills training** that results in job placement in a particular occupation, customized to a particular employer or industry;

- **Transitional employment** that includes stipends for internships during training to help populations with significant barriers make the transition to unsubsidized employment.
- **Intensive, short-term GED** services leading directly to a job or a job training program; and
- **English for Employment:** intensive ESOL instruction with an employment focus, leading to a job or a job training program

For a copy of the RFP, please visit: www.cityofboston.gov/jcs/resplan.asp.

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