



## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – Update

March 26, 2009

*Hillsdale/Region* – Over the past several weeks, South Central Michigan Works! has worked to better understand the elements of the ARRA and what it means to our communities and how best to utilize these funds for training and education.

Unofficially, we have been told that the following amounts will be targeted through our Workforce Investment Act funds for the following programs:

Youth	\$1,968,625
Adult	\$ 862,248
DW	\$1,645,339
Total	<b>\$4,476,212</b>

We are required by the Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) to spend these funds concurrently with our current formula funds ([www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov)) therefore it is our intent to channel these additional dollars into the education/training area and utilize our formula funds to support the additional demand coming into our Service Centers.

We have had an initial meeting with our Intermediate School Districts, Jackson Community College, JAMA/Career Academy, Youth Specialists, Employment Services, and Business Solutions Managers (supply side of workforce development) to talk about potential “new” and “innovative” ways to tie into the educational part of the Summer Youth Component (see PowerPoint – “Summer Youth Initiative – Discussion/Planning Session”).

Much of what we are doing has to be done in tandem, so we are setting up meetings with stakeholders in our communities (business, municipalities, non-profits, etc.) as well as beginning to do outreach into the schools. We are creating and will have set on our website ([www.scmw.org](http://www.scmw.org)) a “Web Pre-Application” for any youth interested in seeing if they qualify for this Initiative. While a paid work component is part of the Initiative, there is also assessment, career exploration; work credential, classroom training and/or other tools that will help participants gain new understanding of their options and opportunities within our communities and for their futures.

We are also exploring the integration on the **Green Jobs**.

ETA will be a key resource to the Administration’s “Green Jobs” initiative. The Green Jobs Act would support on-the-ground apprenticeship and job training programs to meet growing demand for green construction professionals skilled in energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. The Act envisions sound and practical energy investments for 3 million new jobs by helping companies retool and retrain workers to produce clean energy and energy efficient components or end products that will result in residential and commercial energy savings, industry revenue, and new green jobs throughout the country.

To better serve the workforce system and its efforts to support green jobs and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ETA has developed a draft green jobs framework for action. The framework identifies the foundational and operational elements required for serving the needs of the workforce system and its customers. It is designed to promote the development of new and existing green jobs, and hasten widespread employment in green careers across several industry sectors.