Workforce Solutions News Release
Capital Area Workforce Board

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Workforce Solutions to receive $4.3 million in stimulus funds

AUSTIN – Workforce Solutions – Capital Area has been allocated $4,348,568 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The funding will be used in a number of ways, with the ultimate goal to support the residents of Travis County as they prepare for and search for work.

The majority of stimulus funds will be used for occupational training and supportive services for the eligible residents of Travis County. Workforce Solutions will be coordinating with local training providers to develop and implement short-term (under 12 months) training programs in targeted occupations which support industries such as healthcare, renewable or "green" energy, biotechnology, digital media/software development, and information technology.

Another focus for the WIA portion of the ARRA is a Summer Youth Employment program. Workforce Solution's Youth partner, Goodwill of Central Texas, is developing the Summer Youth Employment program to be launched in May 2009. The program will provide eligible young people in Travis County with paid work experience along with work-based learning and work-readiness training. Many of the employment opportunities will focus on renewable energy and "green" jobs.

A small portion of the funding will be used to support the capacity and infrastructure needs of Workforce Solutions' three Career Centers. The Career Centers plan to add staff and extend service hours in order to provide enhanced service to job seekers. Workforce Solutions' website, www.wfscapitalarea.com, will feature updates as the plans for ARRA funding are further developed and implemented.

Workforce Solutions – Capital Area is the publicly-funded workforce Board for Travis County. Through strong partnerships and strategic collaborations, Workforce Solutions is leading the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce.

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