

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Impact on Programs Funded by Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

The purpose of ARRA is to provide funding for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed and fiscal stabilization of State and local governments.

Stimulus Internships for Youth

The Act states “the conferees are particularly interested in these funds being used to create summer employment opportunities for youth.” As the economy declines, the impact on young people is more severe; e.g., the unemployment rate for 18 to 24 year olds is generally double that of the total population.

Utah’s Stimulus Internship program for youth includes:

- DWS received approximately 5 million dollars in ARRA funds.
- DWS intends to spend much of the youth funding this summer.
- DWS anticipates serving 700 to 900 youth statewide.
- DWS plans to begin taking applications 5/1/09.
- Summer internships are available 6/1/09 to 9/30/09.
- Internships may be available after 9/30/09 to 3/31/10.
- Eligibility:
 - 18 to 24
 - Low income
 - Barriers that interfere with ability to get and keep a job, or succeed in educational activities
- New Performance Outcome: Attainment of Work Readiness Certificate.
- Worksites—ARRA asks states to focus on energy efficiency and science, and DWS will target occupations in green energy and life/medical sciences. However, DWS intends to strike a balance by providing information about target occupations, while matching youth with work sites corresponding with their career plans.
- Funds cover internship stipends and supportive service needs.
- DWS is soliciting internship worksites in the public, private and private non-profit sectors.
- DWS will be prudent in developing worksites, as Internship customers cannot displace regular workers who are currently working, or any other worker who is on layoff from the same or any substantially equivalent job.

Incidentally

- ARRA expands The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and enhances the credit for Veterans and Disconnected Youth.
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