

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

YPIC

Issue 7
October 17, 2009

JOB FAIR ATTENDED BY 1734 JOB SEEKERS

The Yuma Private Industry Council hosted a job fair on October 6, which drew 1,734 job seekers. YPIC worked with over 40 local employers who had available positions to ensure they were successful at the job fair. Only employers who were ready to hire and had current vacancies and were actively recruiting were invited to the job fair.

Banks, non-profits, insurance companies, retailers and mental health agencies were some of the employers. Most employers reported they did not expect to see such a large turnout and ran out of materials; however they were very pleased with the quality of the attendees.

On September 17, YPIC had hosted a Career Expo to prepare job seekers for the upcoming job fair. Several workshops were provided to en-

hance the skills of the job seeker and make them more marketable to the employers.

Robert, one of the job seekers had worked at a call center for two years and was laid-off in May. He moved back in with his family and has been living off his unemployment insurance. "I just want a secure job where I can go to work everyday and be able to pay my bills."

Mike a retiree said he needed to go back to work after losing half of his retirement fund. He reported he and his wife are "snow birds", living in the north in the summer and in Yuma in the winter, always in an RV. Mike said he had 30 years in telecommunication but was concerned that his skills would not be current.

Lee Ann, from Mohave County said she was relocating to Yuma in the next few weeks and heard about the job fair so decided to



come down and look for a job before she moved. Lee Ann reported she has not worked in five year because she had been raising her children and going to school. "I've been going to school part-time and just finished my associate's degree; however I have secretarial skills from my past work history. I hope I can find something (a job) today."

As a follow-up with employers, a survey has been developed and will be distributed next week to determine if employers hired as a result of the job fair.

Articles published regarding the Job Fair:

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/job-53313-yuma-fair.html>

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/job-53272-fair-ypic.html>

Rapid Response

In Yuma County the unemployment is 25%, due partly to numerous companies downsizing in these difficult economic times. Needless to say, the YPIC Rapid Response Team

has been very busy. Since February the team has conducted 14 rapid responses, involving 674 employees. They have included two clothing retailers, three school districts and

a carpet manufacturer. Of the 14 companies, six went out of business, dislocating 372 employees. One of the companies had 250 employees.

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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:

Youth: Spent \$1,971,367
Received \$2,233,610

Adult: Spent \$453,555
Received \$965,357

Dislocated Workers:
Spent \$156,084
Received \$1,193,971

Rapid Response
Spent \$22,304
Received \$143,277



Gabriel S, CNA hired at Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital

Certified Nursing Assistant

Gabriel S., an ARRA client and recent graduate from CNA training will begin working at the Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital this week. Gabriel said he likes helping people and always saw employment ads in the healthcare field so thought it might be a good career move for him.

Gabriel reported he has worked in agriculture for the

last five years and last season was not very productive. "We usually work 7 months each year, but last year we only worked 4 months. It was definitely time for a change."

"I grew up in Somerton and didn't finish school until I was into my 20's, but I didn't give up. When I came to YPIC and had to test, I was proud that my scores were high enough

to attend training. "

"Now that I have a good job, I will decide if I like this field and if I do, I will continue my education in the healthcare field. Either way, I will continue my education while I'm working. Now I know that I can do it."

24 ARRA clients employed in the last month!

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2116 customers in September, down from 2738 customers in August 2009.

337 indicated they were dislocated workers

100 indicated they were Veterans

96 indicated they were Migrant workers

ARRA Grant Awarded

Innovation Frontier Arizona (IFA) was awarded \$325,291 in GCWP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 System-Building Funds to establish a regional Green Workforce Investment Partnership (GWIP) in Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties. Expanding from the partnership's initial focus on aerospace-defense, border security and logistics industries into the

area of green jobs, the proposed partnership will use the contracts and regional collaboration infrastructure established by IFA under workforce grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Requested funds will be used for industry outreach, curriculum development and direct training of incumbent and dislocated workers in green-related credentials.

The GCWP sought out projects that benefited identified regions and the local one-stops in high demand/high growth industries. GWIP will result in at least 135 dislocated and incumbent workers being placed into renewable energy and energy efficiency training. The program begins November 1st, 2009, terminating June 30th, 2011.

Summary of Activities & Upcoming Events

Ten ARRA clients started truck driver training at California Career Schools on October 9. ARRA and WIRED funds are being leveraged for this class.

YPIC will host a Lunch and Learn on October 22. The purpose of this event is to educate and inform employers

of the services that are available at YPIC. Lunch as well as a tour of the facilities will be provided.

80 private sector & 11 federal resumes were written in August.

Yuma Sun, the local newspaper published a story on Unemployment Insurance and mentioned that UI Claims can be filed at the One Stop Career Center provided by Yuma Private Industry Council

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/claims-52976-harrington-offices.html>