

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Yuma Private Industry Council

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## DISPLACED HOMEMAKER

Maria J., a displaced homemaker came to the Yuma Private Industry Council in May 2009 for assistance in finding a job. Maria had been married for 35 years and during her divorce realized she would need a job to support herself. Maria is the mother of four children ages 35 to 21; and had earned her GED in 2003 at a community college in California.

During Life Skills class at YPIC, Maria realized she did not want to have a labor intensive job as she had the last time she worked in 1988. "I didn't want a job that involved anything a housewife does." To gain work experience, Maria began volunteering at an elementary school and realized she liked helping children and the teachers. "I'm was the cross-walk guard in the morning which I was getting paid for, but it was only for five hours a week and that wasn't enough to support myself. The rest of the day was volunteer time. When I found out that I could keep working at the school through

a YPIC Work Experience, I was very happy." According to Maria's supervisor, "Maria is a hard and dedicated worker. She helps the teachers grade papers and with class projects. She interacts well with the students and is a very caring person."

Maria explained, "I work with five kindergarten classes, teaching the alphabet, coloring and helping the children read in English. Almost all of the children in the school are Spanish speakers; thank goodness I'm bilingual. I also work as a monitor of children at lunch break and recess. My work experience ends on February 26, and the principal has already expressed interest in hiring me if I can pass the instructional aide test. I test on February 16. I took the test once before in September, but did not pass by just a few points. It's a timed test and that makes me nervous. Passing the test is equivalent to having two years of college work in education and I've never been to college. I can



Maria at her crossing guard duties at Salida Del Sol Elementary School.

pass that test!"

Maria's dream is to have a "good job and own a home. I currently live in a small apartment and need a roommate to be able to pay the rent. I'm not used to this and would like my own home. I know that if I can pass the test and become an instructional aide, I can

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## STATE OF ARIZONA AWARDED \$6 MILLION FOR ENERGY SECTOR GRANT

Governor Brewer announced that Arizona had been awarded \$6 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funds come from the State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants which are designed to teach workers the skills required in emerging industries,

including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Yuma County will receive approximately \$300,000, through a consortium with Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. YPIC will leverage the \$300,000 with \$70,000 received from State Set-Aside

funds. Training through these funds will lead to a number of opportunities to advance sustainability and environmental progress in the Green Energy Sector, such as, solar installer certificates, thermal certifications, and green building design and construction certificates.

### Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:

Youth: Spent \$2,096,654  
Received \$2,233,610

Adult: Spent \$771,708  
Received \$1,287,729

Dislocated Workers:

Spent \$421,976  
Received \$871,599

Rapid Response

Spent \$32,873  
Received \$143,277

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

YPIC's Rapid Response Team conducted 2 rapid responses in February, affecting 50 employees.

After receiving the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, Yuma Private Industry Council decided strategic planning was a necessity. Beginning in April 2009, Sheila Murphy of Sheila Murphy, LLC and Sheila Murphy Associates facilitated the strategic planning sessions over the next 10 months. Dr. Murphy published an article detailing the undertakings and outcomes of these sessions in the T&D Magazine, February 2010, titled: **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Growing a Stronger Workforce.**

According to Dr. Murphy, "YPIC is in the process of demonstrating its ability to thrive in the midst of a mandate to reach more than double the number of individuals and businesses previously served by the agency, in an effort to jump start a business revival county-wide. A behind-the-scenes examination of the work that founded a new approach to rebuilding the economy illustrates an emerging model for capacity-building in the workforce development arena."

mindset required for affecting major transformation of workforce development for implementing ARRA; (2) the framework for response to human need, devised through strategic planning; (3) an emerging model for workforce development, including a scorecard, developed in response to ARRA; and (4) behind-the-scenes organizational changes and their impact to date on capacity and culture."

To read the article in its entirety, please go to: [http://www.astd.org/TD/Archives/2010/Feb/Free/1002\\_TheAmericanRecovery.htm](http://www.astd.org/TD/Archives/2010/Feb/Free/1002_TheAmericanRecovery.htm)

"The purpose of this article is to delineate: (1) the change of

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 942 customers in January, down from 1517 customers in December 2009.

160 indicated they were dislocated workers

90 indicated they were Veterans

18 indicated they were Migrant workers

63 indicated they were in-school youth

158 indicated they were out-of-school youth

## CAREGIVER

April C. came to the Yuma Private Industry Council in May 2009 after being dislocated from her job where she had worked for two years. April had nine years experience working as an accounting / payroll clerk and human resources assistant. April said she has several family members in the medical field and decided it would be a more secure job, so when she came to YPIC she was seeking medical training. However, due to April never having graduated high school she needed to get her GED before being enrolled in training. April was very agreeable to getting her GED so she could get the training she desired. April was enrolled in GED training at Arizona Western College in July and obtained her GED two months later.

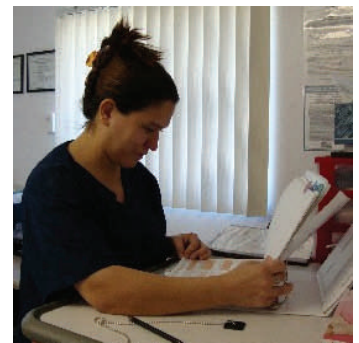
April reported she was determined to work hard because she has two children, ages 11 and 9, and has been married for 15 years. She wanted to

improve the lives of her family. After April completed her GED, she was enrolled in CNA training at the Regional Center for Border Health and six weeks later she graduated. April's instructors, both in GED preparation and CNA training, said April was a "dedicated student. She had determination and was willing to do the work to reach her goal."

Shortly after graduation from CNA training, April was hired by Home Instead, a home healthcare agency as a part-time licensed caregiver. At the beginning of February April was hired full-time at Paradise Cove, a senior living center. April still works on weekends for Home Instead and also for Missing Pieces, another home healthcare agency. April is working approximately 50 to 60 hours per week, trying to make up for the lost income while she was on unemployment. April said with growing children, she is "always in need

of extra money".

April's next goal is to complete the phlebotomy course at Arizona Western College, because this is a requirement to work at the local hospital, which April said would be her dream employer. She would also like to continue her education and eventually obtain her registered nurses license. However, April needs to complete her CNA licensing and will take her exam on February 28. YPIC wishes April the best of luck in her testing and further education.



April preparing to distribute medications at Paradise Cove.

## TRUCK DRIVER / DISLOCATED WORKER

Derrick S. came to the Yuma Private Industry Council for assistance after being laid-off from his job of 10 years. Derrick arrived in Yuma after being transferred with Carrier Refrigeration from Texas, where he had worked for eight years. After being in Yuma for two years, the company sold their business and all of the employees were laid-off in June 2009.

In the 10 years of working with Carrier, Derrick obtained his Associates Degree in Applied

Sciences as an electronics technician and had been promoted several times. He had diagnostic, troubleshooting, installation and maintenance experience. Derrick said he enjoyed working in electronics, but once laid-off, could not find a similar job.

While attending a Job Expo hosted by YPIC, Derrick talked to a representative from the California Career School. California Career School offers a commercial driver's license (CDL) through Arizona West-

ern College. Derrick talked to his YPIC case manager and he was enrolled in the CDL class. Derrick earned his CDL on November 23, 2009. Prior to completing his classes, Derrick was hired by Werner Enterprises, pending his CDL.

Derrick began employment with Werner Enterprises on November 30, 2009 as a long-distance driver. He is currently completing his 300 hours of required on-the-road training and hopes to be driving his own truck in the next



Derrick recently received his CDL license.

## SUCCESSES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- In January, The Business Services Officer at YPIC received and posted 31 job announcements from Yuma County employers.
- Employer comments from job announcements: Vanessa – Farmer's Insurance, "YPIC helped us in getting great and very qualified applicants; making it hard for us (to select a candidate)." Hector CPA – "The first applicant you sent us was phenomenal. It really shows you know what you are doing!"
- 75 private and 20 Federal resumes were completed by the YPIC resume writers in January.
- Yuma Private Industry Council is hosting a Job Fair on February 24 at the Yuma Civic and Convention Center. During the Job Fair, there will be no less than 60 employers present, all of which have available jobs.

**6 ARRA participants found permanent employment in January**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator or the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

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