

**Major Communications Data Version 1.3**

Agency Name:	(012) Department of Labor					
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Short title of communication	Link to Communications Item	Type of Major Communication (Press Release, Video, Press Event, Other)	Short (no more than 5 sentences) overview of the main communications points	Text of Major Communication	Date and time of communication	Additional citizen friendly tags that can be used on Recovery.gov to help present the news items (separate tags with ";")
DOL announces updated COBRA model notices	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/ebsa/EBSA20100366.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/ebsa/EBSA20100366.htm</a>	Press Release	The U.S. Department of Labor announces updated model notices and educational material on extension of COBRA subsidy. Today DOL released updated model notice packages to enable group health plans and employers to provide notice on the availability of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act continuation coverage premium reductions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through March 31.	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor today released updated model notice packages to enable group health plans and employers to provide notice on the availability of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act continuation coverage premium reductions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through March 31.</p> <p>The Temporary Extension Act amended the Recovery Act's COBRA premium reduction provisions by extending the eligibility period through March 2010 and modifying the definition of assistance-eligible individuals to include individuals who were involuntarily terminated after first losing health coverage related to having their hours of work reduced. The subsidy allows individuals to pay only 35 percent of their COBRA premiums; the remaining 65 percent is reimbursed to the employer through a tax credit.</p> <p>"With the passage of the Temporary Extension Act, millions of Americans and their families will be able to keep important health benefit coverage during these challenging economic times. The new eligibility criteria make it possible for many more to qualify for continuation health coverage," said Phyllis C. Borzi, assistant secretary of the Labor Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration.</p> <p>The department updated two of its existing models and developed several new models to cover various situations</p>	3/19/2010 14:00	COBRA;model;coverage;recovery;reduction;

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DOL grant of \$4.8M to Washington workers	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100341.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100341.htm</a>	Press Release	<p>US Department of Labor announces \$4.8 million grant to provide Washington state workers with health insurance payments. The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a \$4,847,959 grant to provide an estimated 1,500 jobless workers in Washington state with partial premium payments for health insurance coverage.</p> <p>"Today's grant will help Washington state residents pay for health insurance while they seek new employment. That makes good sense. After all, losing your job is bad enough, but the impact is gravely compounded if it also means the loss of health benefits," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a \$4,847,959 grant to provide an estimated 1,500 jobless workers in Washington state with partial premium payments for health insurance coverage.</p> <p>"Today's grant will help Washington state residents pay for health insurance while they seek new employment. That makes good sense. After all, losing your job is bad enough, but the impact is gravely compounded if it also means the loss of health benefits," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.</p> <p>Awarded to the Washington State Employment Security Department, this grant will be used to make "gap filler" payments for unemployed individuals who are receiving Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits and are eligible for the Health Coverage Tax Credit program. Under the program, eligible individuals can receive 80 percent of premium costs for qualified health insurance programs.</p> <p>These payments cover the gap period, that is, the month(s) to complete Internal Revenue Service enrollment, processing and first payments under the HCTC program. Through today's funding, the state of Washington will provide up to three months of gap filler payments for the participants.</p> <p>Of the \$4,847,959 announced today, \$2,583,912 will be released initially. Additional funding up to the amount</p>	3/19/2010 15:00	grant;health premiums;recovery;Washington;TA A

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DOL grants \$8.2M to California workers	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100342.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100342.htm</a>	Press Release	<p>US Department of Labor announces \$8.2 million grant to assist workers in central California. The U.S. Department of Labor today announced an \$8,197,664 Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant to assist dislocated workers in California's San Joaquin Valley. This region is comprised of Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties.</p> <p>"Today's funding will help workers in this important region of the Golden State receive the training they need to find good jobs in promising industries," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The grant will assist</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor today announced an \$8,197,664 Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant to assist dislocated workers in California's San Joaquin Valley. This region is comprised of Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties.</p> <p>"Today's funding will help workers in this important region of the Golden State receive the training they need to find good jobs in promising industries," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The grant will assist both workers who have been laid off and those facing dislocations in the near future."</p> <p>This grant will provide the California Central Valley Workforce Collaborative with the flexibility to serve workers affected by projected layoffs occurring within this region during the grant's 12-month period of performance. An estimated 1,439 workers in central California will be served through this grant.</p> <p>The grant will be operated by the Fresno Workforce Investment Board, Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Investment Board, Kings County Job Training Office, Madera County Workforce Investment Board, Merced Workforce Investment Board, Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board, San Joaquin Workforce Investment Board, Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet and Tulare County Workforce Investment Board.</p>	3/19/2010 15:30	grant;NEG;California;training;recovery;

