

Monthly Update

Resources for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs

Disseminated monthly by the
U. S. Department of Labor, Office of National Programs,
Division of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs
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<http://wdsc.doleta.gov/msfw>

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Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 10-12** [Dynamic Works Institute: Workforce Summit 2005](#) Orlando, FL
- **Oct. 22-25** [National Council for Workforce Education \(NCWE\)](#)
San Antonio, TX
- **Oct. 31-Nov. 3** ["Building a Future with Farmworkers, Together We Grow"](#) 2005
AFOP National Conference, Miami, FL
- **Nov. 7-9** [2005 National Workforce Excellence Summit](#) Washington, DC
- **Nov. 14-17** [NAWDP 6th Annual Youth Development Symposium](#) Chicago, IL

An additional Workforce System-Wide Calendar of Events provided by the Employment and Training Administration, <http://www.workforcetools.org/calendar.asp>, can also be found on the "Workforce Tools for the Trade," a USDOL website designed to help workforce development professionals excel.

Department Initiatives

Hurricane Recovery: Benefit Plans; Louisiana Updates; WIA Waivers; Employee Identification; HGJTI/NEG Grants; Apprenticeship and Job Corps Opportunities; Targeted Job Bank; Resource Links

[Texas Announces Job Fairs \(September 21\)](#)

[Extension of Certain Time Frames for Employee Benefit Plans Affected by Hurricane Katrina \(September 21\)](#)

Louisiana: [Update on Open Centers, Job Fair Announcements, Change of Address Advice for Claimants \(September 16\)](#)

Construction Industry Apprenticeship Programs: [Alabama](#), [Louisiana](#), [Mississippi \(September 16\)](#)

[ETA Issues TEGL 5-05: Waiver Flexibility for Hurricane Katrina Response \(September 15\)](#)

[Department Moves to Assist Job Seekers and Employers on Employee Identification Replacement \(September 15\)](#)

[Training and Employment Notice 7-05: Assisting Employers and Job Seekers with Employee Identification Needs \(September 15\)](#)

[Economic Development Administration and Manufacturing Extension Partnership Updates \(September 15\)](#)

[Job Corps Enrollment Opportunities for Young People Impacted by Katrina](#)

[Department Announces HGJTI Grants to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas \(September 14\)](#)

[Department Announces Katrina Recovery Job Recovery Connection; AJB Web Site to Assist Impacted Workers and Employers \(September 12\)](#)

- [National Emergency Grant for Texas \(September 6\)](#)

- [National Emergency Grant for Louisiana \(September 3\)](#)

- [National Emergency Grant for Mississippi \(September 2\)](#)

- [National Emergency Grant for Alabama \(August 31\)](#)

FTA Requests Proposals for the State Coordination Grant Component of United We Ride; Planning and Implementation Funding to Benefit Persons with Disabilities, Lower Income Individuals, and Older Adults

The Federal Transit Administration has requested proposals for the State Coordination Grants component of the [United We Ride initiative \(UWR\)](#). The intent of the UWR initiative is to break down the barriers among Federal programs as they relate to transportation to ensure that transportation services are seamless, comprehensive and accessible. Specifically, UWR is tasked with seeking ways to simplify access to transportation services for persons with disabilities, persons with lower incomes, and older adults.

FTA has identified \$1,250,000 for UWR State Coordination Grants initiative. Grants under this initiative range from \$35,000 to \$75,000. Maximum funding for states applying for planning grants is \$35,000. Maximum funding for states applying for implementation grants is \$75,000.

States Coordination Grants may be used to assist states through either planning or implementation grants. Planning grants are for states that have not yet received a UWR grant, and do not have a comprehensive action plan. Planning grants can be used to conduct a comprehensive state assessment using the UWR Framework for Action and to develop a comprehensive state action plan for coordinating human service transportation. Implementation grants are for states which have developed a comprehensive state action plan.

Implementation grants can be used for implementing one or more of the elements identified within a state action plan consistent with the UWR Framework for Action.

The [UWR Framework for Action](#) is a self-assessment tool for states and communities to conduct comprehensive state assessments to identify areas of success and highlight the actions still needed to improve the coordination of human service transportation. The self-assessment tool is designed to address the needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower-incomes.

Eligible applicants include the Governor's office from each state. The Governor may designate a "lead" agency with the state's proposal. The proposal must clearly demonstrate collaboration among multiple state agencies. The Governor's office or designated "lead" agency is responsible for leading the application, implementation, reporting and evaluation process.

Proposals must be submitted November 28, 2005. Proposal should be compatible with Microsoft Word and submitted electronically through the [www.Grants.Gov web site](#).

The [September 14 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) provides the application requirements.

Regional Announcements

REGION III

Cobia Boat Plant Expanding in North Carolina Cobia Boat plans to add nearly 300 jobs and invest \$6.2 million over five years at its plant in McDowell County, North Carolina. Cobia specializes in making saltwater fishing boats. The company plans to start building a 106,500-square-foot building in Marion in September, with operations expected to begin in February 2006. Most of the 292 new jobs will be manufacturing jobs that will pay an average salary of \$31,000 a year.

William Wrigley Jr. Company in Chattanooga to Make a Mint The William Wrigley Jr. Company is expanding a candy plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, partly to shift production of Altoids mints from Britain, and the move will add 150 jobs.

Dell Plans to Open Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Plant October 5 Computer-maker Dell, Incorporated, plans to officially open its plant near Winston-Salem on October 5, but intends to build the first machines at the site about three weeks earlier. Dell has trained about 170 employees so far. The company plans to have at least 500 by the end of the year and 1,500 by September 2006.

Belk Incorporated Will Hire up to 200 in Jackson, Mississippi Belk Incorporated will hire up to 200 workers by March to staff a distribution center in the Greater Jackson Industrial Park in Byram that will serve 110 of the company's stores within a 300-mile radius of the facility.

Two South Carolina Companies to Add 70 Jobs

- In Edgefield County, a company that makes plastic pellets and fiber from recycled materials will add 40 jobs. The Edgefield Manufacturing Company is spending \$2 million to enlarge its plant near Trenton.
- In Greenville, Toyoda-Koki Automotive South Carolina Inc. will add 30 jobs as it

expands its 77,000-square-foot plant called The Matrix.

200 Workers to be Hired in Mobile, Alabama Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Company, Inc., plans to hire 450 new workers -- 200 of them in Mobile -- to build three tug barges worth \$232.5 million for Maritrans, Inc. The hiring should be complete within the next six months, and the jobs would last for 40 months.

Call Center Adding 440 Williamsburg County, South Carolina Jobs

ClientLogic plans to add 440 new workers at its call center in Williamsburg County. The workers answer customer calls for Sony, DirectTV, National Geographic and others.

SBA Adding 700 Local Jobs for Disaster Assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Atlanta office plans to hire 700 people to help small businesses in Alabama and Mississippi cope with the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. Three types of jobs are available: construction analysts who can assess damage, customer service representatives and field loan officers. Experience is required for all of the positions, and the jobs could last up to a year or longer.

Solo Cup Company to Build Walton County, Georgia, Warehouse Solo Cup Co., makers of bathroom paper cups and inventors of the ubiquitous plastic coffee lid used at Starbucks, will build a new distribution warehouse in Walton County that will hire 155 people. The center near Social Circle will open by September 2006.

UPS to Hire 175 Workers in Greenville, South Carolina A new telephone sales operation in Greenville will put 175 people to work for United Parcel Service, Inc., by spring. Hiring already has begun and the company plans to train workers in groups of 30 to 35 every four weeks. The inside sales

jobs should pay more than \$40,000 when

base and incentive pay is included.

REGION IV

The Louisiana Department of Labor is involved in organizing and contributing to dozens of job fairs around the state to help workers affected by Hurricane Katrina find employment.

button in the lower, right-hand side of the LDOL homepage. This will take them to a clickable list of job fairs. Individuals can click on any job fair link for more information about that specific event.

With its local partners, the labor department has scheduled job fairs throughout the months of September and October in many areas of the state. More fairs are being planned to help people find employment.

These listings will be updated, so jobseekers should check the Web site regularly.

Job fair information can be found in two places on the Louisiana Department of Labor Web site www.LAWORKS.net:

The labor department has also established a toll-free number for evacuees looking for jobs. Jobseekers can call 1-866-310-1585 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They will be put in contact with the One-Stop or Job Center closest to the area where they currently are residing or the area where they anticipate returning so that they may receive job placement assistance.

1. A listing of job fairs is available in the special Hurricane Katrina section. Select the link for "more information," then click on the [List of LDOL Job Fairs Throughout Louisiana](#) link under the "LDOL Links to..." heading.

Jobseekers also can visit the Department of Labor Web site, www.LAWORKS.net to post a résumé and search through thousands of job postings in our online job bank.

2. Users can click on the [Calendar of Events](#)

Other Announcements

Department of Commerce Announces Funding Opportunity for Minority Business Opportunity Centers

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) within the Department of Commerce is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate Minority Business Opportunity Centers (MBOC). The Minority Business Opportunity Centers through their staff will provide brokering services and assistance to MBEs that (a) generate \$500,000 or more in annual gross revenues or **(b) are capable of creating significant employment and long-term economic impact.**

organizations, state and local government entities, federal agencies, American Indian Tribes, and educational institutions are eligible.

Eligible applicants include for-profit entities (including sole-proprietorships, partnership, and corporations), and non-profit

The total award period is two years. MBDA anticipates that a total of approximately \$1,600,000 will be available in each of the calendar years 2006 and 2007 to fund at least one MBOC in each of MBDA's five regions. MBDA anticipates funding five (5) to nine (9) MBOCs. Funding levels will range from \$120,000 to \$300,000 per year based on the Federal amount for each geographic location:

- Los Angeles, CA (\$300,000)
- Colorado (\$200,000)
- Milwaukee, WI (\$120,000)
- Chicago, IL (\$300,000)
- Detroit, MI (\$150,000)
- Washington, DC (\$300,000)
- Florida (\$200,000)
- Gary, IN (\$120,000)
- San Juan, Puerto Rico (\$200,000)

- Alabama (\$120,000)

The [August 30 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) provides the full background on this competitive announcement. Additional information may be found on the [MBDA's Minority Business Internet Portal](#). The closing date for receipt of applications is October 14, 2005.

Hurricane Katrina Actions at USDA and HUD

USDA is attempting to place evacuees in 30,000 vacant Rural Housing Service-financed units across the country. These are mostly Section 515 apartments. The Department has also announced a 90-day debt service moratorium for all housing program borrowers in the disaster-affected counties. See <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome>

HUD is working on several measures: 203K loans, use of vacant HUD-owned and public housing units in the region, allowing reprogramming of CDBG and HOME funds

to disaster recovery, use of vouchers for replacement units for displaced public housing families, use of Indian CDBG for disaster recovery, and other strategies.

HUD also would operate the Urban Homesteading program, as the agency did from 1975 to 1991.

For more information, see the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/katrina/index.cfm>

Useful Websites

National Agricultural Statistics Service Provides Useful Statistics in Service to U. S. Agriculture

The National Agricultural Service (NASS) gathers information on American agriculture by counting, measuring, pricing, analyzing, and reporting to give people the facts they need. Each year, our agency conducts hundreds of surveys and prepares reports covering virtually every area of U.S. agriculture -- production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm

aspects of the industry. In addition, NASS's 45 State Statistical Offices (SSO's) publish data about many of the same topics for their individual states. Crop Reports are provided on a day-to-day basis and posted online. Of particular interest for the NFJP is the Census of Agriculture and weather impact on crop days by state:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/weather>

Staff Development Resources

[Enhancing WIA Performance Outcomes](#)

This [on-line tutorial](#) is a Macromedia presentation that uses a Power-Point-like presentation with narration to guide you, the workforce development professional, through valuable on-line training. The course is designed so that individuals can take all or only specific topics based on their particular needs. The course is interactive, contains quizzes, and can be downloaded for use at any time at any pace. The content includes two separate courses: One on Enhancing Performance Outcomes for Adults and Dislocated Workers, and the other on Enhancing Performance Outcomes for Older and Younger Youth. Each course has two modules: Module 1 - *A Performance Measures Overview* (walking you through definitions, timing, and calculation of each measure); and Module 2 - *The Life Cycle of a WIA Participant* (which focuses on collecting and recording intake information, program participation, exit and follow-up and their relationship to performance standards). The tutorial is a MUST for new hires, and provides valuable, often unrecognized insights even for experienced staff.

[NASWA's "LMI@Work"](#)

In this course, you will tour Labor Market Information (LMI) resources, find out how LMI can help you in your day-to-day work, explore case studies that describe how

these resources are used, and create an action plan for yourself. You drive this course. Choose only those topics that interest you. Explore the entire course, or take only certain topics. Check your knowledge of the content taught throughout this course with periodic *Learning Checks* that can be used to ensure you've learned everything you need to know."

[At Your Service: Welcoming Customers with Disabilities](#)

The objectives of this course are to:

- Increase understanding of the needs and experiences of people with disabilities
- Present how to adjust general customer service standards to meet the needs of the customer with a disability
- Develop basic etiquette for interacting with a customer who has a disability
- Show how to comply with statutes regarding service to people with disabilities, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 508

You need to register before using this course.

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program Resources is a technical assistance update distributed monthly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Office of National Programs, Division of Seasonal Farmworker Programs. It provides announcements and other public information gathered by ETA Regional Office Weekly Reports or shared through the USDOL website and other public access resources.

We welcome your input. Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Gloria Salas-Kos (salas-kos.gloria@dol.gov)