



## Project Hire

### FACT SHEET

#### What is Project HIRE?

Project Hometown Investment in Regional Economies (HIRE) is a statewide Workforce Investment Act ARRA initiative focused on jobs. It provides enhanced job matching strategies linking employers and job seekers. Using labor market and business community knowledge, the Ohio Department of Development will identify employers in targeted regional industries of high need who are looking for employees with specific skills that may be matched through Project HIRE. State and local workforce investment specialists will coordinate Project HIRE events and activities to facilitate these connections.

Project HIRE includes hiring fairs and other outreach activities, which bring employers and dislocated workers together. Ohio Learning Accounts, valued at up to \$6,000, can be used to provide short-term classroom training, on-the-job training (OJT), or a combination of both in order for an eligible job seeker to meet an employer's hiring conditions. Up to \$7 million will be available to match 1,200 to 2,000 One-Stop customers with hiring employers. The employer may also be eligible for tax credits, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

#### Ohio Learning Account Eligibility

- Enrolled One-Stop customers (Dislocated Workers, Reemployment Services (REA), Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) participants) are eligible to participate in Project HIRE. The goal is to find jobs for One-Stop customers.
- Customers are enrolled in learning accounts once there is a commitment to employment and the customer requires additional short-term training as a condition of the employment.
- Employers must have job opportunities in targeted industries or demand occupations.
- For OJTs, the employer must assure that no former employee is in layoff in the same or similar position.
- OJT positions may not result in the displacement of employed workers, impair existing contracts, or result in the substitution of Federal Funds for other funds in connection with work that would otherwise be created.
- Positions should expect to be filled for at least one year during the normal course of business.
- All Ohio Learning Account training must be completed by December 31, 2010.

#### How it Works ... for Employers and Job Seekers

Ohio Learning Accounts are flexible training accounts of up to \$6,000 for eligible dislocated workers who require training or certification as a condition of accepting a bona-fide job offer in a targeted industry or demand occupation. Training may be in the classroom, at the workplace, or a combination of both approaches.

### On-the-Job Training (OJT)

- If all or a portion of the OLA is an OJT component, local areas are required to ensure completion of the Project HIRE OJT Employer Checklist and Training Agreement and ensure compliance with the Project HIRE OJT guidelines.
- The single page employer agreement has been developed as a two-part process. An eligible employer would have a blanket agreement to cover all training plans through the program year.
- Individual specific amounts, hours and wages are addressed in each training plan. This reduces the need to complete a new checklist and contract for every new OJT customer for a single employer.
- Use of the statewide forms provides consistency for employers working with multiple local areas.

### Short-Term Classroom Training

- Local areas will develop OLA training plans that will include the worker and employer attestation that he/she will meet all conditions set forth in the local agreement.
- Local areas may incorporate language for OLA into existing agreements, or create specific agreements for the OLA program. ODJFS will provide a training plan template.
- The focus is on short-term training, defined as less than one year in duration.
- Providers may be locally approved or included in the Ohio Eligible Training Provider Online system.
- All training must lead to degrees, licenses or industry recognized certificates or credentials.
- Selection of the training provider is determined at the local level by the case manager, the participant and the hiring employer.

### **For More Information**

Information, including a map of One-Stop service delivery centers across the state, can be found at the Project HIRE Web page at [http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/workforceprof/Project\\_Hire\\_OLA.stm](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/workforceprof/Project_Hire_OLA.stm).

Information about Hiring Fairs and other events is located at [www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com).



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