

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WDCSC uses ARRA funds to bridge gap left by worker retraining programs

April 15, 2009 - Everett, WA—Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) has made an additional \$57,000 available for participants enrolled in Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Worker programs for support services and training, increasing the total amount available for the current program year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) to \$124,905. For the following program year (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010), WDCSC will make an initial \$200,000 available to enrolled participants for training and support services needs.

Additionally, WDCSC has amended its Individual Training Account (ITA) policy to increase the amount of money enrolled program participants can receive within a given time period to cover the costs of both training and support services like gas money and/or bus tickets. The amount allowed for intensive services has increased to \$400 per rolling six month period while the amount for training services has increased to \$4,500 per rolling 12 month period. These increases reflect the additional needs for training coupled with the current tuition rates at commonly used training providers.

These additional funds are critical at a time when college Worker Retraining programs are seeing funding shortfalls due to high demand. WorkSource Snohomish County staff are collaborating with local community colleges to help bridge these gaps and assist Workforce Investment Act eligible participants who are most in need.

These funds have been made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and will be administered to eligible Workforce Investment Act enrollees by agencies awarded program delivery contracts through WDCSC's Request for Proposals process. ARRA funds are subject to a high level of scrutiny and local, as well as state and federal, oversight and reporting.

In addition to the funding increases, WDCSC has plans to purchase blocks of classes with local training providers, thus increasing both in-demand skills in Snohomish County's workforce and simultaneously bolstering the educational system capacity of the county.

WDCSC is working with community partners to ensure that ARRA funds are spent quickly and transparently to serve the workforce needs of Snohomish County in the most efficient and effective manner. WDCSC is focusing much of its spending of ARRA funds on the following key areas: 1) providing workforce development services to Snohomish County residents, 2) building workforce development system capacity, and 3) increasing the capacity of local education and training providers. More information about where ARRA funds are going in Snohomish County is available on the WDCSC website at www.wdcsc.org/recoveryact.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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