



BWIB Memberandum

January 4, 2008

- **Federal FY 2008 Appropriations Process Update**

Late last month, Congress completed work on legislation to fund key federal programs for fiscal year 2008, by passing a massive “omnibus” appropriations bill. The bill combined the remaining appropriations bills that had not yet been enacted, including an amended version of the Labor-HHS-Education measure that was previously vetoed by President Bush. The discretionary total of the Labor-HHS-Education portion of the bill is approximately \$5.6 billion less than the bill President Bush vetoed last month.

In total, it receives \$144.8 billion in funding, approximately \$4 billion more than originally requested by the President, but only slightly more than the \$144.5 billion that was allocated for the previous fiscal year. On a positive note, Congress rejected the Administration's deep cuts to the WIA system by providing \$700 million above the President's request level.

The bill does, however, include a \$250 million rescission of 2005 and 2006 WIA unexpended balances for the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker formula programs. This provision will translate into reduced overall federal funding for workforce agencies like MOED. President Bush signed the legislation on December 26th.

- **2008 YouthWorks Kick-Off is Just Around the Corner**

Mayor Sheila Dixon is preparing to formally unveil efforts associated with her priority to expand the City's successful YouthWorks program. There are two major components associated with the initiation of this policy priority. First, the Mayor will meet with representatives from the private sector, the philanthropic community, the religious community, educational institutions, and community groups to outline her plan to move toward an overall goal of providing every child that wants a summer job with the chance to get a summer job. The immediate 2008 goal is to increase the level of available YouthWorks summer job placements by twenty percent. Second, the Mayor will hold a press conference to raise awareness of the Youthworks Program throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. Both events are scheduled to take place on Monday, January 14th.

- **Under Armour to Add 350 Jobs**

A recent Baltimore Sun article (12/11/07) outlined the plans of local sports apparel maker Under Armour to add approximately 350 employees at a location adjacent to its existing Locust Point

headquarters. It is anticipated that this expansion will occur over the next several years, with the potential for additional growth in the future. Baltimore developer Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse will be purchasing and developing the building on behalf of Under Armour.

- **Baltimore Now Home to Day-Labor Center**

CASA of Maryland has opened a southeast Baltimore employment center, in order to better serve the needs of the city's population of day-laborers. The center is designed to provide these workers with opportunities for job placement, training, and legal assistance. According to CASA, it is estimated that there are about 7,000 to 10,000 day-laborers in the city. CASA presently operates two similar centers in Montgomery County, Maryland. The site of this employment center is closely located to an east-Baltimore convenience store parking lot that has historically been a congregation point for day-laborers seeking employment. The day-labor center is in close proximity to MOED's Eastside One-Stop Career Center, and benefits from a close working relationship with the Eastside Center's staff members. It is hoped that this new facility will enable these workers to seek employment in a safer, resource equipped environment.

- **Dates of Interest**

Monday, Jan. 7th (12:30 pm) BWIB Public Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 8th (2:30 pm) – Training Session: Youth Academic/Occupational Services RFP
Wednesday, Jan. 9th – Opening Day, 2008 Maryland General Assembly Session
Thursday, Jan. 17th (8:00 am) – BWIB Training & Postsecondary Education Committee Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 28th – ACCE Annual Job Shadow Day
Wednesday, Mar. 12th (7:30 am) – BWIB Full Board Meeting
Thursday, Mar. 13th (7:45 am) – BWIB Youth Council Meeting

Stay tuned for announcements related to the initial 2008 meetings of other BWIB committees and task forces!!

****If you would like additional information regarding any of the issues or events discussed throughout this publication, please feel free to contact Jeff Smith.****