



BWIB Memberandum

Week of January 8, 2010

• Congress Considers Additional Job Creation Legislation

Prior to its December 2009 recess, the House of Representatives approved the “[Jobs for Main Street Act of 2009](#).” This is a \$150 billion jobs bill that includes significant new investments in infrastructure, fiscal relief to preserve education, law enforcement, and other public jobs, and a six-month extension of unemployment benefits and COBRA health insurance subsidies provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This bill will be funded in part through unexpended portions of the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) legislation. Complete information and legislative language regarding the full bill is available online at http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Jobs_for_Main_Street_Act_of_2010_Summary.pdf; workforce funding is reviewed below.

Like the Recovery Act the bill largely focuses on increasing investments in existing workforce programs, providing \$1.25 billion in new training funds under the Department of Labor:

- \$500 million in additional WIA Youth formula grant funding, which is to be used for summer youth employment programs; and
- \$750 million for competitive grants for training and placement of workers in high-growth and emerging sectors. Of that total, \$275 million must be for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy as described in the Green Jobs Act, and of that \$275 million, \$225 million must be for Pathways out of Poverty grants. Priority for the remaining \$475 million must be given to projects in the health care sector.

The Senate is expected to take up consideration of this legislation immediately after it completes its work on the comprehensive healthcare reform bill.

• Red Line Jobs Study Released

The City of Baltimore has recently released a report which analyzes the projected economic and job impacts of the proposed Red Line Transit Project. The Red Line is a proposed new 12-mile east-west transit line. This new light rail project would run from Baltimore County (Woodlawn area on the west) to Baltimore City (Greektown and Bayview areas on the east). The jobs study, conducted by the Jacob France Institute of the University of Baltimore, sought to develop projections of the types and numbers of jobs created by the construction of the Red Line (labor demand).

The study concluded that, including multiplier effects, the construction of the Red Line could generate \$2.1 billion in economic activity in Baltimore City and create or support a total of 15,006 jobs earning \$775.2 million in salaries and wages over the overall construction period. A large percentage (83%) of the jobs created or supported by the construction of the Red Line are entry-level/lower skill jobs, requiring less than an Associate's Degree. The analysis was conducted to support the goals established in the Red Line Community Compact to ensure that the construction and operation of the Red Line provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the City. A core goal of the Community Compact is to create employment opportunities and help prepare and connect Baltimore residents, who live in the communities impacted by project construction, for these anticipated jobs.

- **Baltimore Set to Receive Targeted Federal Workforce Funds**

Late in December 2009, President Obama signed legislation which completed the fiscal year 2010 appropriations for most branches of the federal government. This omnibus spending bill included three targeted federal appropriations for the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED). Two of the items were contained within the spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The first of these provides \$575,000 in funding for the City's YouthWorks summer youth employment program, and the second allocated \$400,000 in funding for a new BRAC Employment Preparedness initiative. The remaining funds for Baltimore consisted of \$500,000 designated within the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriation, to support MOED's Reentry Employment Center (ReC). Thanks are certainly due to the members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation, whose efforts made these important actions possible.

- **YouthWorks 2010 Registration to Begin**

Starting on Monday, January 11th, participant registration will begin for YouthWorks 2010. This year's program will focus on the theme that "Summer Jobs Launch Careers." Information regarding registration locations, and specific days/times scheduled for the completion of this process, can be downloaded from MOED's website: <http://www.oedworks.com>.

- **Dates of Interest**

Wednesday, January 13th – 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly Begins
Thursday, February 11th (8:00 am) – BWIB Training and Postsecondary Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 2nd (7:30 am) – BWIB Full Board Meeting
Thursday, March 4th (7:45 am) – BWIB Youth Council Meeting

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