ARRA Expands Workforce Development Vision

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), enacted on February 17, 2009, provided over $2.5 billion dollars for Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Employment Services and Older Workers programs. The funding is intended to be a major investment in the American workforce that in the short term will:

- Preserve and create jobs;
- Jumpstart economic recovery; and,
- Provide assistance to those most impacted by the recession.

To address longer term goals, ARRA investments are intended to transform our economy with science and technology and to strengthen efforts at renewable energy production and energy efficiency. Though the legislation actually covers a time period through June 30, 2011, the emphasis is on spending the majority of the funds within one year.

ARRA also calls for increased accountability to let the public know where the funds are going. Toward that, ARRA Workforce News will be published bi-monthly to provide information on funding received and expended and report significant outcomes.

Here, in Mohave/La Paz Workforce Investment Area (LWIA), ARRA

Continued next page
Cody Caillouette
COYOTE Youth Development Program
KINGMAN Green Team

For twenty-four-year-old Cody Caillouette, working for the COYOTE program is the best way to provide for his family. He lost his job in January after an onsite accident, and couldn’t find work. “I don’t have anything right now besides this,” he said.

For the last few months, Caillouette has been looking for jobs throughout Kingman and Golden Valley. “I sent out over fifty applications,” Caillouette said. “I was up for pretty much anything.” After several months of job hunting, Caillouette stumbled onto the COYOTE program. Now, he has a steady paycheck so he can provide for his eleven-month-old daughter, Emily.

Caillouette has been working for Mohave County’s “Green Team” since June 18. As an employee for Hector Mariani and Randy Davis, Caillouette helps their ecology projects. Caillouette is proud of these efforts, and enjoys working for Mariani and Davis. “If Hector had a business, I’d love to go and work for it,” Caillouette said. “These guys are amazing.”

ARRA’s first challenge to the workforce system was to immediately expand youth summer programs throughout the nation. In Mohave/ La Paz LWIA, the One-Stop Career Centers staff accepted the challenge and in just three months, tripled the number of youths participating in the Coalition YOuth TEam (COYOTE) program from 2008 and expanded project teams and partners to focus on “green” industries and entrepreneurship.

“ARRA funds have allowed Mohave and La Paz counties to hire new staff and restructure and expand workforce programs, greatly increasing the number of people they can serve,” said Chonna Marshall, Chairperson of the Mohave/ La Paz Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). “The immediate and long term impact of the ARRA investment in our people and communities is very positive.”

ARRA EXPANDS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT VISION –CONTINUED

“The immediate and long term impact of the ARRA investment in our people and communities is very positive.”

—Chonna Marshall
Chairperson, Mohave-LaPaz Investment Board

ARRA provided $1,603,121 for its Adult, Youth and Dislocated Workers Programs. “The ARRA funds have allowed Mohave and La Paz counties to hire new staff and restructure and expand workforce programs, greatly increasing the number of people they can serve,” said Chonna Marshall, Chairperson of the Mohave/ La Paz Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). “The immediate and long term impact of the ARRA investment in our people and communities is very positive.”

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Continued next page
ARRA EXPANDS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT VISION – CONTINUED

The COYOTE youth program is highlighted in this ARRA Workforce News issue. Personal testimonies from several COYOTE youths are in our “Faces of ARRA” sections.

Beyond the youth program, major efforts are underway to create the partnerships, policies and processes needed to serve adult and dislocated worker populations successfully. The next issue of ARRA Workforce News will highlight the innovative strategies to recruit and match program participants in customized training opportunities for targeted industries.

Key ARRA Provisions

- Serve families most in need, displaced and under-skilled adults, dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth
- Increase the availability of training services for occupations-in-demand and green jobs by contracting with institutions of higher learning and training providers
- Integrate strategies for low skill, low wage workers
- Strengthen reemployment services, especially for UI claimants
- Increase support services available including needs-related payments
- Invest workforce training and education funds in projects related to health care, renewable energy development, transportation and other areas that will create jobs and opportunities for unemployed workers to rejoin the labor force.

Ashlee Gooden
COYOTE Youth Development Program
BULLHEAD CITY
Lowe’s

Every day when Ashlee Gooden, 19, returns home from work at Lowe’s Hardware Store, two girls are waiting for her. “I have a fifteen-month-old named Hope. I also have custody of my six-month-old sister.”

It can be tough, Gooden admits, but she can handle it. “My sister was born with drugs in her system. It was bad,” she said. “But I’m there for her. For both of them.”

Gooden got her summer job through this year’s COYOTE program. She is one of 7 young adults currently at Lowe’s. “I’m in the outside gardens,” Gooden explained, “working with plant maintenance and helping customers.”

Even though she works full-time and has kids still in diapers, Gooden is in the process of finishing off her high school credits, before enrolling in Mohave Community College’s nursing program.

For right now, though, Gooden is happy where she’s at. “I want to stay here [at Lowe’s]. The people are great. The department is great. The whole thing is great.”

Whether watering plants or changing diapers, Gooden knows what she has to do. “Even though I’m young,” Gooden said, “I have responsibilities. People need to stand up and be responsible when they’re needed.”
Sabrina Rood
COYOTE Youth Development Program
PARKER
La Paz County Probation Program

Thanks to the COYOTE program, Sabrina Rood, 19, is well on her way to having a career. In addition to taking online classes through Mesa Community College, Rood has been working full time with the La Paz Probation Office.

“I do basic secretarial work,” Rood explained. “But I also go out on the field. I could use all the experience that I can get.”

Like all COYOTES, Rood went through a two-week training session to prepare her for the worksite. While the classes could be tough, Rood views them as absolutely necessary. “No kid wants to sit in a classroom for the summer,” she admitted, “but I did great on my interviews, and it was absolutely because of the classes.”

Now that she’s out of the classroom and in a job, her future seems clearer than ever before. “I’m going to school for criminal justice,” Rood said. “This program made me decide.”

More importantly, the Probation Office has given her valuable work contacts to continue her career. “I have connections now,” she explained. “Hopefully I can transition into a permanent job in Phoenix, where I can continue my schooling.”

Throughout this whole process, Rood has had only one complaint: “More kids need to know about this. It will change their futures.”

Edge Dransfield
COYOTE Youth Development Program
LAKE HAVASU CITY
Havasu Aquatic Center

Edge Dransfield, 17, is gaining confidence at the workplace. Thanks to the COYOTE program, he’s at work at Havasu’s Aquatic Center, cleaning the building and learning pool maintenance skills. “Pool chemistry,” he said. “I didn’t realize how complicated that was.”

At times, Dransfield’s life has been a little complicated. Dransfield lived in Kingman until his dad “kicked me out,” he explained. “I had to sleep in my car.” Eventually, he was placed at a foster home in Havasu. There, he gets to see his sister, niece and nephew. “It’s a great place to grow up,” he said.

He still visits his biological mom, and sometimes talks to his dad on the phone. “It’s really not as bad as you’d think,” he said.

For a while, Dransfield had problems relating to people. “Before this program, I didn’t talk to anybody,” he said. “I didn’t really have confidence.”

Dransfield credits his foster mother for pushing him into the program. “She made me do it,” he explained. “She’s always pushing me to do stuff I’m too scared to do.”

This is Dransfield’s second year with COYOTE, and he’s already seen a great deal of self-improvement. “I got through by moving on and trying new stuff, like this job,” he said. “If you push yourself, everything will turn out.”
COYOTE!!!

For the sixth straight summer, the COaltion YOuth TEam (COYOTE) has helped Mohave and La Paz youth enter the world of work. This eight-week program includes two weeks of work readiness training and six weeks of actual on-the-job experience. Thanks to ARRA funds, COYOTE was able to more than triple the number of participants.

ARRA FUNDING OUTCOMES — 250 YOUTH, 80 EMPLOYERS, 129 WORKSITES AND A BUNCH OF FANTASTIC SUMMER PROJECTS TEAMS

A pack of COYOTES go through work readiness classes

Sgt. La Nita Ellico of the U.S. Army Reserve speaks to COYOTE youth

The COYOTE Performers are ready to put on a show

COYOTEs get job experience with the Parks Department in Lake Havasu City

Seven COYOTEs get job experience at Lowe’s of Bullhead City
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “GREEN?”

Green is no longer just the fourth color of the rainbow. In the last few years, going green has invaded the vernacular, becoming a part of shopping, home renovations, and—now—governmental policy. Thanks to the ARRA funding, green jobs have surged forward like never before. Here in Mohave and La Paz counties, ARRA will fund green training to ensure our workforce has the skills to compete for these jobs. Green jobs can be found on farms and recycling plants, but they can also be found in toy factories and cubicles. Many traditional blue- and white-collar jobs have turned green, particularly in the following four industry sectors:

**Green Products**
Many opportunities for green collar jobs involve making green products. These products can range from lunchboxes to hybrids. They are used in building, transport, consumer or industrial products.

**Renewable Energy**
Jobs in renewable energy relate to the production of energy from natural sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, biomass and biofuels.

**Green Services**
Green services are jobs that help businesses and consumers use green products and technologies. Green services also help build an energy infrastructure that will affect energy efficiency, farming, recycling, and waste management.

**Environmental Conservation**
Jobs in environmental conservation relate to the conservation of energy, air, water and land. This includes jobs in air emissions control, water treatment, water conservation, wastewater treatment and land management.

GREEN TEAM PARTNERS

The COYOTE Green Teams have fostered relationships with organizations throughout Mohave and La Paz counties. Through the generosity of these groups, the COYOTEs have been able to make business connections, initiate green projects, and generally improve the environment around them.

Acciona Solar Power
Arizona Game and Fish Department
BP Company Wind Farm
Bullhead City Nature Center
Bureau of Land Management
City of Kingman Sanitation Department
Finlay-Nolte Honda
Hualapai Valley Solar LLC
KAR Recycling
La Paz County Parks Department

Mohave Accelerated Learning Center
Mohave Community College
Mohave County Emergency Housing Services
Mohave County ERACE Program
Mohave County Probation Department
Southwest Wind Turbine Manufacturer
Unisource Energy Services
US Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Hoover Dam)
Hector Mariani
COYOTE Youth Development Program
Coyote Green Team Leader
KINGMAN

For Hector Mariani, a retired police officer from California, going green has become a way of life. As part of the COYOTE Green Team, Mariani supervises a team of ten young adults in environmental improvement projects. “They’re not just working in the dirt,” he explained. “They’re learning a lot too.”

Mariani is certainly qualified to run the Green Team. Since 2005, he has powered his house entirely on solar power, using panels that he installed himself. “I maintain my own solar system,” Mariani explained. “No electricity, except what we make.”

Mariani admitted that he does splurge on propane. “Once a year,” he said, “for the barbecue.”

As a self-described “desert-guy”, Mariani is proud of his environmental efforts both at home and with the COYOTEs. “The world needs some positive change,” he said. “It’s important for people to help.”

Whether sitting in his living room or cleaning up Clack Canyon, Mariani is one of the people who help.

The COYOTE program has new projects this year centered on community beautification and wildlife conservation. Green Teams in Bullhead, Havasu, Kingman, and Parker are not only helping the environment, but also learning about burgeoning green-collar jobs.

Both Kingman and Parker are improving the land by picking up trash, replanting trees, and cleaning illegal dumping sites. The Kingman team also tours green-industry facilities, such as recycling centers and solar power companies.

Meanwhile, the Havasu and Bullhead Green Teams are improving the water and sky. The Havasu team is hard at work on a fish habitat project, while the Bullhead crew builds batboxes and birdhouses in a project that combines construction with animal sciences.

Whether working with water, land, or skies, the COYOTE Green Teams are helping the community one ‘howling’ step at a time.
Mohave - LA PAZ One-Stop Career Centers
Mohave County Comprehensive Site
Mohave County Community Services Department
700 W. Beale Street, Kingman  PHONE: 928-753-0723  FAX: 928-753-0776  TDD: 928-753-0726
www.co.mohave.az.us/ContentPage.aspx?id=114&cic=16
Department of Economic Security   301 Pine Street, Kingman  PHONE: 928-753-4333

SATELLITE OFFICES
Mohave County Community Services Department
1335 Ramar Rd. Ste.3, Bullhead City  PHONE: 928-758-0702  FAX: 928-758-0737
Department of Economic Security
2601 S. Hwy. 95, Bullhead City  PHONE: 928-763-4154

Lake Havasu City
Mohave County Community Services Department
2001 College Dr. Ste. 122, Lake Havasu City  PHONE: 928-453-0710  FAX: 928-453-0728
Department of Economic Security
228 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City  PHONE: 928-680-6005
REPAC OFFICE—Dislocated Workers  PHONE: 928-680-0464

Parker
La Paz County Comprehensive Site
La Paz Career Center
1113 Kofa Ave., Parker, AZ 85344  PHONE: (928)669-9812  FAX: 928-669-6326
Department of Economic Security
1032 Hope Ave., Parker  PHONE: 928-669-6755

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 20, 2009</td>
<td>AUGUST 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 12, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Supervisors Meeting</td>
<td>“The Curse of the Werewolf”</td>
<td>Mohave/La Paz Youth Council</td>
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<td>Monday 9:30 am—Noon</td>
<td>The first production of the</td>
<td>Wednesday, 9:00 am—Noon, plus</td>
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<td>700 W. Beale Street, Kingman</td>
<td>Coyote Performing Arts Team</td>
<td>lunch</td>
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<td>JULY 25, 2009</td>
<td>Saturday August 1 at 7 pm</td>
<td>Mohave Community College</td>
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<td>Extreme Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Matinee Sunday August 2 at 2pm</td>
<td>MCC, Lake Havasu City Campus</td>
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<td>Tour</td>
<td>Kingman High School</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 30, 2009</td>
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<td>Saturday 9am to 1pm</td>
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<td>Regional Education Summit</td>
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<td>White Cliffs Middle School</td>
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<td>Thursday, 9:00 am—Noon, plus</td>
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<td>400 Grandview Ave., Kingman</td>
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<td>AZ</td>
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<td>Bullhead Campus</td>
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<td>RSVP 928-757-0894 or <a href="mailto:emailbenton@mohave.edu">emailbenton@mohave.edu</a></td>
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