

December 1, 2009

To: Local Workforce Investment Act Boards (WIBs), Administrative Entities, Fiscal Agents, and One-Stop Partners

From: John Weber, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development

Subject: Career Advancement Account (CAA) Update

The US Department of Labor granted Ohio a no-cost extension through June 30, 2010 for the Career Advancement Account (CAA) pilot program (Grant Modification No 7). This extension offers Ohio the opportunity to re-program \$200,000 in previously awarded funds which were not spent. This funding level will provide short term training for approximately 50 dislocated workers customers on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Launched in 2007, CAA provides a “fast-track to short-term training” for Ohio workers impacted by restructuring activities of domestic automobile manufacturers who were not eligible for other training programs, including TAA. Ohio has expanded CAA to include workers impacted by Worker Adjustment Retraining Notification (WARN) mass layoffs. An updated list of current WARN notice companies is available at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/warn/current.stm>

Offering up to \$6,000 to cover the costs of short-term education and training, CAAs represent an innovative approach from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the US Department of Labor to support job-focused training and education. CAAs can be used for occupational skills training, skill upgrading or retraining which help workers quickly gain new skills to improve the chances of finding a job in today’s marketplace.

As of today, more than 1,450 Ohio workers have been approved to receive training services through CAA. This announcement is designed to notify local areas of available funds to provide training for workers most impacted by current economic conditions. Workforce Investment Board Policy Letter No. 09-04: [Ohio's Career Advancement Accounts](#) outlines the requirements for the CAA program.

All other aspects of Ohio’s plan, as modified, will remain in effect. CAAs will continue to be available and accessible through all Ohio One-Stop centers and will focus on short-term training programs designed to enable eligible dislocated workers to gain marketable skills that will lead to new career opportunities or career advancement. Questions may be directed to WIAQNA@jfs.ohio.gov. Additional CAA information is available at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/workforceprof/CareerAdvancementAccounts.stm> .