



Project HIRE

Project Hometown Investment in Regional Economies (HIRE) and Ohio Learning Accounts (OLA) is collaboration among the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) University System of Ohio, and the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB)/local One-Stop Systems. Project HIRE is a statewide initiative with funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to assist dislocated workers in finding employment. Hiring fairs will be held throughout Ohio as part of the annual Workforce Services Month activities to kick off the Project HIRE initiative. Ohio Learning Accounts can be used to provide dislocated workers short-term, on-the-job-training, or a combination of both.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will provide lists of both businesses and dislocated workers through systems they currently maintain. ODOD Business Services Representatives will contact targeted industry businesses to find job openings and local One-Stops will identify dislocated job seekers. Employers will interview those dislocated workers that match their needs, with one-on-one interviews conducted at the local One-Stop (or where convenient for the employers) as part of the Hiring Fair.

Ohio Learning Accounts bolster pre-qualified job seekers' existing skills with additional training, making these candidates more attractive to prospective employers, beyond what the job seeker could have accomplished on his or her own. The job training will be funded through the use of Ohio Learning Accounts (OLA), which will provide dislocated workers up to \$6,000 for short-term training which may include classroom training resulting in an industry-recognized, portable credential and/or on-the job training (OJT) in concert with the hiring employer.

Total funding of up to \$7 million will be issued to Workforce Investment Areas to serve 1,200 to 2,000 job seekers, on a first come, first serve basis, who have lost their primary source of income. All training must be completed by December 31, 2010. OLA draft policy will be forthcoming. The employer may also be eligible for tax credits, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

Dislocated workers employed through Project HIRE on-the-job training must remain employed with the business for a minimum of six months after they training is completed with the employer. The local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) will document the success rate and make a final Project HIRE program report to ODOD. In addition, a final OLA fiscal report will be made to ODJFS. Thanks to this collaboration, employers will find people with the skills they need and Ohio's economy will improve.