

# REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**REFUGEE WORKS  
E-NEWSLETTER  
May 2009 (Vol. 2, Issue 9)**

## **NEWS**

Make plans now to attend the National Conference on Recertification in East Lansing, Michigan. The first of its kind, this conference will focus on the specific issues related to professional retraining, job-seeking and recertification for refugees resettling in the United States.

Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis for refugees, students and others who need assistance to attend or speak at the conference. To apply, please send a note (by fax, e-mail or U.S. mail) indicating estimated expenses, along with the registration form, to the attention of Linda Rabben. Speakers are exempt from the registration fee and should indicate this on the registration form.

Linda Rabben, RefugeeWorks Conference Organizer  
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Tel: 410.230-2769; Fax: 410.230-2859

To register, go to:

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/conference>

## **AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT**

### **1. Where To Find Recovery Act Information**

--> <http://www.dol.gov/recovery> (U.S. Department of Labor)

--> <http://economicrecovery.workforce3one.org> (Workforce3One, March 2009)

--> <http://www.grants.gov/applicants/recovery.jsp> (General Recovery Act Grants Announcements)

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/stimulus.pdf> (Stimulus Funds Fact Sheet)

### **2. Recovery Act and English Language Training**

Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies: Fact Sheet (April 1, 2009)

--> <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>

Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies: Guidance (April 1, 2009)

--> <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/title-i.pdf>

### **3. Where To Find Recovery Act Contracts**

The following site currently lists 566 active and archived awards, which can be accessed here, at:

--> <http://FedBizOpps.gov>

--> <http://tinyurl.com/qkxuco> (Go to "Documents To Search" and choose "Both," then to

Opportunity/Procurement Type and select Award Notice, then scroll down to the bottom of the page, and under "Recovery and Reinvestment Act Action," and click yes)

--> <http://www.USASpending.gov>

--> <http://tinyurl.com/ovzcc9> (grants awarded by state)

### **4. Assistance for Jobless Workers in the Recovery Act**

Concise Guide to Assistance for Jobless Workers (National Employment Law Project, April 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/cxz3x9>

Extended Benefits under the Economic Recovery Bill (National Employment Law Project, April 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/dz5bce>

### **5. VISTA Volunteer Funding in the Recovery Act**

Recovery Act Funding for VISTA Volunteers (Corporation for National and Community Service Corporation State Office, March 2009)

--> [http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/09\\_0313\\_recovery\\_vista\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/09_0313_recovery_vista_guidance.pdf).

--> <http://www.cns.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>

## 6. Regional Recovery Act Forums

The Employment and Training Administration is hosting informational forums through early June:

Atlanta Region - May 27 - 29, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia

San Francisco Region - June 2 - 4, 2009, San Francisco, California

--> <http://reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/home>

## 7. Using Recovery Act Funds to Create Green Jobs

An Inclusive Green Economy: A Guide to Using 2009 Recovery Act Funds (Green for All, 2009)

--> <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/recoveryusersguide/download>

## 8. Using Recovery Act Funds to Support Housing Needs

The final stimulus package offers increased funding for Community Development Block Grants

--> [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fbci/progs/fbci\\_csb.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fbci/progs/fbci_csb.html)

## EDUCATION

The Federal Pell Grant program, which provides financial aid grants to low-income students, are available for "eligible non-citizens," which includes refugees, asylees, and Cuban/Haitian entrants. While the grant program is primarily intended to help students earn their first degree, students who are seeking teaching certification are also eligible.

--> <http://tinyurl.com/qkaczq>

--> <http://www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>

## ECONOMY

Associated Press Economic Stress Index: Measuring Financial Strain by County (AP, May 2009)

--> [www.tinyurl.com/pqatht](http://www.tinyurl.com/pqatht)

Finally in the land of the free, but where are the jobs? (CNN, May 11, 2009)

--> <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/05/10/iraqi.refugee.recession/index.html>

For refugees in KC, a rough start on new life (The Kansas City Star, May 18, 2009)

--> <http://www.kansascity.com/637/story/1202717.html>

Groups helping refugees find region is too pricey (Boston Business Journal, May 1, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/otupj9>

Harnessing the Advantages of Immigration for a 21st-Century Economy (Migration Policy Institute, May, 2009)

--> [http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/StandingCommission\\_May09.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/StandingCommission_May09.pdf)

Immigrants and Neighborhoods of Concentrated Poverty: Assimilation or Stagnation? (National Poverty Center Working Paper Series, 2006)

--> [http://npc.umich.edu/publications/u/working\\_paper06-44.pdf](http://npc.umich.edu/publications/u/working_paper06-44.pdf)

Job Training That Works: Findings from the Sectoral Employment Impact Study (Public/Private Ventures, May 2009)

--> [http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/294\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/294_publication.pdf)

## GREEN JOBS

The Green For All Community of Practice connects people who are working on programs and policies to create green-collar jobs and pathways out of poverty.

--> <http://www.greenforall.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/community-of-practice>

Green Jobs Search Engine (Mother Earth News, May 2009)

<http://www.greatgreencareers.com/>

Green Jobs Training Funds, "Pathways out of Poverty," Now Available (U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, May 2009)

--> [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2755](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2755)

--> <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/ten/TEN44-08acc.pdf> (complete document)

## HOUSING

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Housing Assistance Tip Sheet (The Citizens Housing and Planning Association, May 2009)

--> <http://www.chapa.org/pdf/2009StimulusBillFinal.pdf>

Foreclosures Provide New Purpose for Refugee Center (The Lao Family Community Development, May 2009)

--> <http://www.bankforeclosuressale.com/wp/article-1202331.html>

Mercy Housing, ORR's Technical Assistance provider on refugee housing issues, provides in-depth information and updates about foreclosure prevention and housing assistance, via its listserv. Sign up here, at:

--> <http://www.refugeehouse.org/discussiongroup.htm>

## **IRAQ**

For Once-Celebrated Iraqi, Life in U.S. One of Lost Hope (Washington Post, May 10, 2009)

--> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2009/05/10/ST2009051000094.html>

## **LANGUAGE**

"Immigrant Families, English Language Learners, and the Future of Education Reform" (The Urban Institute, May 21, 8:45-10:30 a.m. EST)

--> <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/341598731> (RSVP)

--> <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=58924> (Audio Webcast Registration)

Recovery Act and English Language Training

Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies: Fact Sheet (April 1, 2009)

--> <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

Court Upholds Cuts in Aid to Noncitizens Who Are Old, Blind or Disabled (The New York Times, May 15, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/oglpwz>

E-Verify program confirming workers' legal status grows in popularity (Los Angeles Times, May 14, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/pk74yf>

Migration Fundamental: The Basics of E-Verify, the US Employer Verification System (Migration Policy Institute, April 2009)

--> <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=726>

## **PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS**

Previous e-newsletters are now available for download from our website. The archive can be found in the section "RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter," at:

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/about/publications.html>

## **CONTACT US**

Please visit our web site at <http://www.refugeeworks.org>

RefugeeWorks is the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's training and technical assistance arm for employment and self-sufficiency activities. Submit newsletter contributions to [dsturm@refugeeworks.org](mailto:dsturm@refugeeworks.org)

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--> <http://lists.lirs.org/mailman/listinfo/refugeeworks>

To post to this list, send your email to:

[refugeeworks@lists.icn.net](mailto:refugeeworks@lists.icn.net)

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