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Recovery Act delivers more than \$370 million in job training funds to Ohio

Ohio received more than \$8.5 billion in Recovery Act funds more than \$370 million of which is dedicated funding to support job training. Only 45 percent of Ohio workers possess post-secondary credentials, yet more than half of all jobs will require post-secondary education. Recovery Act funds will help the state push back the skill gap and help individuals left jobless by the recession seek new employment and retrain for new careers.

This report, the first of three to be released by Policy Matters Ohio, presents a broad overview of the Recovery Act and investment in Ohio's workforce development system from non-Department of Labor sources. These funds, which supported training programs in the health care, weatherization, and SmartGrid maintenance and implementation, were spent with high levels of public transparency, generated job growth, and helped workers train for jobs in growing industries and better wages.

The Recovery Act serves as a model for increased transparency and accountability in government spending. The Ohio Recovery Website, which has been offline for maintenance since mid-January, had previously provided citizens easy access to detailed information about government spending. While the report finds that improvements are needed in recipient reporting consistency, especially in reporting jobs created or retained, it is clear that this high level of public transparency and accountability is necessary to help citizens understand how and where their tax dollar is being spent. "Ohio needs to bring its Recovery website back online immediately," said Hannah Halbert, report author and policy liaison at Policy Matters Ohio. "The site had provided valuable information that allowed Ohioans to monitor how Recovery Act dollars were being spent."

Recovery Act funding to Ohio created and retained jobs. More than 25,000 Ohio jobs were created or retained with ARRA funds. Ohio is seventh in total ARRA funding awards and in number of jobs saved or created, which is consistent with our size as the seventh most populous state. Ohio ranked first in the nation in creating green jobs with Recovery Act support.

Investments in Ohio's workforce system, particularly from competitive and discretionary grants sent funding into emerging and high-growth industries, effectively

meeting the Recovery Act's goal of investment for long-term growth. Programs investing in the emerging green economy that also funded targeted career training, such as the statewide home weatherization project, put people to work and expanded opportunities. Funding for health care professional training increased access to medical care for underserved communities and focused on improving the quality of care by increasing the number of credentialed health care professionals. Investments in training workers in SmartGrid technology while investing in the SmartGrid infrastructure will ensure our electrical supply chain is safe, secure, and efficient.

The City of Canton, for example, received a \$440,000 Brownfield Job Training Grant to prepare workers for jobs in environmental cleanup. Trainees were employed during their training at environmental cleanup zones in Florida, Michigan, and Wooster, Ohio. Thirteen trainees worked full-time cleaning up the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Seventeen worked the Kalamazoo Michigan Oil Spill and six worked in Wooster, Ohio cleaning up storm damage at the Ohio State Agricultural Center. These trainees earned \$11.50 to \$30.00 per hour, plus, in some cases per diem and bonus payments. "Continuing to replicate this investment model on the state and local level by tying investment in emerging industries to targeted pathways-out-of-poverty training programs would support job growth while ensuring that the opportunity and increased prosperity resulting from public investment is open to all Ohioans," said Halbert. "These training programs have provided on-ramps to the middle class for families across Ohio."