

Senator Brown: Stimulus helped 134K Ohio workers

Dayton Business Journal by Joe Cogliano, DBJ Staff Reporter

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U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said the federal stimulus act has helped fund retraining programs that helped 134,000 Ohioans in the past year.

U.S. Sen. **Sherrod Brown**, D-Ohio, says a new report shows stimulus money invested in Ohio for employment assistance and job training had a significant impact. Brown said Ohio received more than \$370 million in stimulus dollars for worker retraining efforts.

Brown's reaction came on the heels of the Wednesday report from Policy Matters Ohio, which says Workforce Investment Act funds were well-targeted as counties with greater economic distress received more funding per capita than counties with stronger economies.

The money went to One-Stop centers that provide a variety of services to the unemployed. In 2010, more than 15,000 people in the Dayton area used the centers, according to a report issued by Brown. "One-Stops in Ohio, supported through Workforce Investment Act and Recovery Act funds, play a vital role for workers and employers in Ohio," Brown said in a statement. "By providing everything from Internet and telephone access for job applicants to retraining programs for those who need to update skills for a new career, One-Stops are drivers of our economic recovery."

The report is the third in a three-part series examining use and distribution of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in Ohio's workforce development system.

Brown said the Republican budget passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year would eliminate workforce investment programs, which helped up to an estimated 134,000 Ohioans train for new jobs and secure employment last year alone.

"Let's not forget that the best way to reduce our deficit is to get people back to work," Brown said.