



JobsNOW: 12 in 6

12 Jobs in 6 Months Employing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds

Responding to North Carolina's need to get people back to work and to Governor Bev Perdue's call that the NC Community Colleges undertake her JobsNOW initiative, the community colleges and the N.C. Department of Commerce partnered to develop and fund "12 in 6". The project provides the infrastructure and resources necessary to help train North Carolinians in needed job skills within 6 months and help rebuild North Carolina's economy.

A reality of today's economy is that education, training, and the pursuit of lifelong learning are essential to economic recovery. With rising unemployment rates, a greater number of North Carolina workers must be retrained to find new employment opportunities. Community colleges, already the fastest growing segment of higher education, are facing accelerated growth due to the economic downturn. This growth is evidenced by the additional 15,000 full-time equivalent students added to the state's community college rolls since September. Additionally, community colleges are connected closely to local and regional labor markets, which position them to identify and provide training options that are accessible, low-cost, high-quality educational opportunities that prepare workers for good jobs with good wages.

NCDOC's Workforce Development Division is setting aside \$13.4 million in ARRA funds to support this initiative. These grant funds will provide an infusion of instructional resources to support training activities in occupational areas that can be completed in less than 6 months. To date, the approved occupational areas include:

- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Medical Coding
- Office/Clerical Support
- Masonry/Tile Cutting
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Welding
- Food Service
- Autobody Repair
- Manufacturing/Materials
- HVAC/Industrial Maintenance

To meet local/regional labor market demands, colleges will have the flexibility to identify additional short-term occupational training options. Courses may be offered as a single course or may be bundled as a series of courses that will lead to a job-skills credential and the NC Career Readiness Certification. These affordable training opportunities will be short-term (1-week to 6-months) with flexible scheduling and are expected to begin in August or September.

Focusing on her JobSUPPORT effort, Governor Perdue has requested that a portion of the \$35 million in ARRA funds for the state's 24 local workforce boards be designated for assistance with tuition, transportation and child care for eligible students in the JobsNOW program. Decisions on the exact amount available in each region will be left to the discretion of the local workforce board.

Timeline

- **Friday, April 17, 2009:** State Board of Community Colleges is expected to approve allocation of funds for the 12 in 6 initiative for each of the system's 58 community colleges.
- **Week of April 20:** Information on the amount of funds available will be distributed to the colleges. Working with local workforce boards and within their allocations, colleges will develop proposals for providing short-term job training with an emphasis on local job offerings related to health care, green technologies, manufacturing and other technical skills. Allocations are based on the number of unemployed people and the unemployment rate for each college's service area, with the number of unemployed accounting for 60% of the allocation equation and the unemployment rate, 40%.
- **Early May:** Proposals are due to the NC Community College System Office.
- **July 1:** Colleges may begin spending funds according to their approved plan and the federal and state accountability requirements on the use of ARRA resources.