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Lieutenant Governor

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Patrick-Murray Administration Awards Over \$3.2 Million in ARRA Funds for Training in Healthcare Industry Jobs

Innovative healthcare workforce development partnerships connect Massachusetts residents with healthcare jobs

BOSTON - Thursday, April 8, 2010 - Governor Deval Patrick today announced over \$3.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants to support healthcare workforce development partnerships that will help Massachusetts residents advance in healthcare careers. One out of every seven jobs in Massachusetts is in the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector.

"The effect of Federal stimulus dollars cannot be minimized as our residents, our businesses, and consumers benefit from partnerships such as the training grants we are announcing today," said Governor Patrick. "The healthcare industry is a large part of the economic engine in Massachusetts, and my administration is working overtime to ensure that our workforce has every chance to become competitive in this field."

"As we continue to invest in job creation across the state, these federal funds will support workforce training and development in the healthcare field, a critical and growing industry for Massachusetts," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "Properly training this workforce will be mutually beneficial for businesses across the state looking to fill job vacancies and also for workers looking to improve their skills."

The funds have been awarded to 16 Workforce Investment Boards that have partnered with healthcare businesses and community colleges to provide training to both unemployed and incumbent workers to prepare for health careers. Through the programs, participants can gain credits towards associates degree programs or more advanced certificates. Regional partners in the programs develop curriculum targeted to labor needs in their regions so that people can obtain in-demand degrees and certifications such as: Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Assistant, Clinical Lab Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Exercise Science, Home Health Aide, Hospice Care, Licensed Practical Nurse, Medical Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding, Paramedic, Ophthalmology Technician, Personal Care Attendant, Pharmacy Technician,

Phlebotomy and Surgical Technician.

"In this slumping economy when so many people are trying to find work, healthcare jobs are more desirable and marketable than ever. This substantial investment means thousands of workers can get the training and skills they need to find rewarding work," said Senator John Kerry.

"Investments in job training, especially in such an important growth industry such as healthcare will pay dividends down the road," said Congressman Stephen F. Lynch. "I am pleased to see that these stimulus funds will be used to help put people back to work."

"I am pleased that North Shore Workforce Investment Board in Salem, which was designated a high-performing board by the state and continues to do great work, will be the recipient of these federal funds and, more importantly, that our residents who are currently without work or in need of re-training may benefit through possible employment in the burgeoning healthcare sector because of these educational partnerships," said Congressman John F. Tierney.

"I know from my visits to the Lowell and Lawrence Workforce Investment Boards that access to job training goes such a long way in helping people find employment and further their careers, said Congresswoman Niki Tsongas. "Accordingly, this investment of Recovery Act dollars will create new opportunities for residents of the Fifth District and the Commonwealth in the growing healthcare field."

"The healthcare industry continues to grow jobs despite the recession," said Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. "Many of these jobs require at least a two year college degree, and these grants are aimed at accelerating education and training opportunities to help people land and retain better jobs."

"At a time when we need to get people back to work, these funds will go a long way in helping people access available jobs and further their careers," said Senator Marc R. Pacheco, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight. "Training and education is vital at a time where some people's options are limited. As the healthcare industry continues to grow, these grants will help employers fill vacancies while ensuring that workers have the tools they need to succeed."

"This is exactly the type of expenditure that the stimulus bill intended. Job training to get people prepared to work in the sectors of the economy where there are job vacancies is a wise expenditure of taxpayer funds that can help get this economy going again," said Representative David P. Linsky, House Chair, Joint Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight.

The Workforce Investment Boards that will be receiving grant funds from this grant are:

- Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, Pittsfield \$210,000

- Boston Private Industry Council, Boston \$200,000
- Bristol Workforce Investment Board, Fall River \$200,000
- Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, Brockton \$189,679
- Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board, Hyannis \$187,862
- Central Mass. Regional Employment Board, Worcester \$210,000
- Franklin/Hampshire Regional Employment Board, Greenfield \$199,878
- Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, Lowell \$200,000
- Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc., New Bedford \$210,000
- Lower Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, Lawrence \$ 199,994
- Metro North Regional Employment Board, Cambridge \$200,000
- Metro South/West Regional Employment Board, Marlborough \$200,000
- North Central Workforce Investment Board, Leominster \$200,000
- North Shore Workforce Investment Board, Salem \$210,000
- Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Springfield \$210,000
- South Coastal Workforce Investment Board, Quincy \$209,189

"The Patrick-Murray Administration is working to meet the needs of labor markets across the state," said Nancy Snyder, President and CEO of the Commonwealth Corporation. "These grants are providing every workforce region of the state with training grants so that people can gain the skills needed for today's dynamic healthcare industry."

The grant program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and administered by Commonwealth Corporation through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund.