



NEVADA GOVERNOR
BRIAN SANDOVAL

DETR INTERIM DIRECTOR
DENNIS PEREA



Media Contact:
Mae Worthey
wmworthey@nvdeetr.org
o (702) 486.7991
c (702) 249.6324

www.nvdetr.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 26, 2014

U.S. Department of Labor Awards DETR \$1.8 million to Assist Long Term Unemployed

Las Vegas, NV — The Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) was among 32 states to be awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist Nevada’s long-term unemployed jobseekers in reentering the workforce. The grant totaling \$1,830,497 was awarded through the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant program.

“This grant will help jobseekers who have been unemployed for long periods of time achieve their goal of re-entering the workforce,” said Governor Brian Sandoval. “While Nevada’s unemployment rate continues to fall, there are still far too many Nevadans who struggle to make ends meet. I am pleased Nevada has been named a grant recipient and would like to thank DETR’s Workforce Investment Support Services staff for their incredible work.”

Nevada intends to use the grant to contract with The Workplace, creator of Platform to Employment (P2E), which is a public-private partnership giving businesses a risk-free opportunity to evaluate and consider hiring the long-term unemployed during an eight-week work experience program, said Lynda Parven, deputy administrator for DETR’s Employment Security Division and Workforce Investment Support Services, which was responsible for securing the grant.

Nevada plans to address two portions of the population that historically have been challenging to serve, the long-term unemployed and those profiled as likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits. A number of partnerships will be used, depending on what services are necessary. Each participant will complete the P2E curriculum, which will qualify them for eight-weeks of subsidized employment. It is unclear at this time how many individuals will be served, Parven said.

“This program offers problem solving strategies to help long term unemployed gain the skills they need to become desirable by employers again,” Parven said. “Jobseekers who have been out of the workplace for long periods of time tend to lose many of the skills they had when they were employed. Our goal will be to help them become marketable and capable of competing in the workforce. Participants will first attend a five-week preparatory program designed to address the social, emotional, and skill deficiencies caused by long-term unemployment. Included is a support system focusing on lasting performance improvements for participants.”

The grant will also allow for Business Service Representatives to continue building relationships with employers to help identify jobs for the long-term unemployed, said Renee Olson, Administrator for DETR's Employment Security Division.

"It is important that we help educate employers about the unemployed population and the contributions they can make to their organizations," Olson said. "There is a misperception about long term unemployed jobseekers that also contribute to their inability to return to the workforce. These individuals are driven and determined and would make excellent employees with the right support and opportunities."

Business Service Representatives will contact or respond to private and public business customers, community organizations and groups to explain the program and educate business customers on available services and financial incentives for hiring program participants.

DETR Interim Director Dennis Perea said the Department of Labor also offered Nevada an additional \$175,000 to help in other areas including: Increasing consumer access to training outcomes and information; developing more effective electronic employment tools; expanding employer engagement; and enhancing customer and employer satisfaction.

"DETR and the Governor's Office of Economic Development have identified nine sectors that will have high demand jobs in the coming years," Perea said. "Developing partnerships with business and industry continues to be a priority in our workforce development efforts as we pursue opportunities for the unemployed to return to work."

The nine sectors are: Aerospace and Defense; Agriculture; Clean Energy; Health Care/Medical Services; Information Technology; Logistics and Operations; Manufacturing; Mining and Materials; and Tourism, Gaming and Entertainment.

-###-



DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, the Information Development and Processing Division and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.