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**DATE: September 1, 2009**

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**ODJFS Announces New Constructing Futures Request for Proposal**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) today announced a new \$4 million Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Constructing Futures grant initiative funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Constructing Futures is designed to provide pre-apprenticeship training to unemployed Ohioans in construction occupations.

“This program will help put Ohioans to work in the construction industry, which is seeing the immediate impacts of the federal stimulus legislation,” ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin said. “More Ohioans, especially women and minorities who are having difficulties finding employment, will be able to secure good jobs because of this program.”

Program activities will be targeted to dislocated workers and low-income, unemployed adults. Outreach will focus particularly on minority and female Ohioans, who are underrepresented in the construction sector.

The funding source is a \$4 million allotment under ARRA. The agency originally issued an RFP for this project July 1. To improve the awards process, the agency withdrew the RFP and is issuing a new one designed to achieve the same goals while allowing involvement by a greater number of qualified applicants.

The deadline for proposals is Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 3 p.m. In addition to the proposal, applicants must also register by that date at the ARRA Recovery Web site at <http://www.recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state/>. For organizations that responded to the July RFP, they must submit new proposals for this current RFP. However, they do not need to register at the ARRA Recovery Web site if they registered in July. The current RFP and other information about the grant initiative are available online at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/>. Interested parties are encouraged to regularly view that Web site for any possible alerts or amendments regarding the project.

To be considered for funding, a proposal must be submitted by a partnership that includes one or more organization in each of five groups: Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) entities (local WIA Boards or administrative agencies), programs or institutions of the University System of Ohio (USO), Adult Basic Literacy and Education (ABLE) sponsors within the USO, and community-based organizations that have expertise in serving the target populations.