

HELP WORKERS HURT BY THE ECONOMY

High unemployment and rising costs have outpaced Americans' paychecks. We will help workers train and find jobs, and help struggling families make ends meet.

Helping Workers Find Jobs

- **Training and Employment Services:** \$4 billion for job training including formula grants for adult, dislocated worker, and youth services (including \$1.2 billion to create up to one million summer jobs for youth). The needs of workers also will be met through dislocated worker national emergency grants, new competitive grants for worker training in high growth and emerging industry sectors (with priority consideration to “green” jobs and healthcare), and increased funds for the YouthBuild program. Green jobs training will include preparing workers for activities supported by other economic recovery funds, such as retrofitting of buildings, green construction, and the production of renewable electric power.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants:** \$500 million for state formula grants for construction and rehabilitation of facilities to help persons with disabilities prepare for gainful employment.
- **Employment Services Grants:** \$500 million to match unemployed individuals to job openings through state employment service agencies and allow states to provide customized services. Funds are targeted to states with the greatest need based on labor force, unemployment, and long-term unemployed rates.
- **Community Service Employment for Older Americans:** \$120 million to provide subsidized community service jobs to an additional 24,000 low-income older Americans.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

- **Benefits Extension:** \$27 billion to continue the current extended unemployment benefits program – which provides up to 33 weeks of extended benefits - through December 31, 2009 given rising unemployment.
- **Increased Benefits:** \$9 billion to increase the current average unemployment insurance benefit from roughly \$300 per week, paid out of State trust funds, by \$25 per week using Federal funds, through December 2009. There are currently 5.3 million workers receiving regular UI and an additional 1.9 million receiving extended benefits.
- **Unemployment Insurance Modernization:** Provides funds to states through a “Reed Act” distribution, tied to states’ meeting specific reforms to increase unemployment insurance coverage for low-wage, part-time, and other jobless workers.

Higher Education: Tuition is up, unemployment is up, and as a result more people are choosing to go to school to upgrade their skills and more of these students need student aid. This investment addresses those short term needs while investing in our nation's future economic strength.

- **Pell Grants:** \$15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, from \$4,850 to \$5,350.
- **College Work-Study:** \$490 million to support undergraduate and graduate students who work.
- **Student Loan Limit Increase:** Increases limits on unsubsidized Stafford loans by \$2,000.
- **Student Aid Administration:** \$50 million to help the Department of Education administer surging student aid programs while navigating the changing student loan environment.