

## **Job Corps American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Plan Q and A**

### **What is Job Corps doing with the stimulus funds?**

- Three things:
  1. Stimulating economic activity through shovel-ready construction projects.
  2. Developing green-collar job training programs and a culture of sustainability on center.
  3. Preparing 10,000 graduates for employment opportunities in the new green economy over the next 18 months.

### **Can Job Corps really help stimulate the economy?**

- Yes. With 122 centers across the country and in Puerto Rico, Job Corps is in a unique position to use Recovery Act funds to support local job growth through construction and rehabilitation projects.

### **How were construction projects selected? What was the rationale for selecting certain projects over others?**

- All proposed projects are worthy, and we wish we could fund them all. But the stimulus funds have limits and certain expectations, so we made our decisions based on two criteria:
  1. Does the project address the most critical needs for Job Corps?
  2. Will the project result in immediate job growth and economic impact in the center community?
- All funded construction projects needed to be “shovel-ready” for immediate economic impact. In other words, these are projects that have already been designed and can begin construction in the next few months.
- In cases where we had to prioritize further and come up with a tie-breaker of sorts, we gave deference to centers in economically depressed areas.
- Remember that allocating Recovery Act funds to shovel-ready projects will allow other construction projects to be funded through regular program Construction, Rehabilitation, and Acquisition (CRA) funds.

### **Is the Job Corps stimulus plan set in stone? Is it too late for changes?**

- The stimulus plan has been approved by the Secretary of Labor and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and we do not anticipate any changes.

### **What is the time frame here? Has construction already begun?**

- Funded projects need to be initiated and performed over the next 18 months. The National Office of Job Corps will be providing technical resources to help center operators move quickly and make sure that everyone meets the deadline.
- No construction contracts have yet been executed. The National Office is in the process of identifying the procurement methodology to perform the construction work, i.e., modifying existing contracts, soliciting small business involvement, and competitive bidding.
- The greening of Job Corps is an ongoing initiative. It will live well beyond the 18-month lifespan of the stimulus funds.

### **When does the 18-month clock start?**

- It began with the signing of the Recovery Act in February 2009.

### **What can you tell us about the reporting requirements?**

- Recovery Act funds will need to be tracked and accounted for separately. Reporting requirements have been developed by OMB, and DOL has incorporated those requirements into contract clauses. OMB guidance is publicly available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda\\_fy2009/m09-15.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-15.pdf).
- Contractors should know what they are getting into before proceeding, and we will provide additional guidance and resources as soon as possible.
- Spending of all Recovery Act funds will be tracked on a public Web site, [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

**What is the “greening” of Job Corps? Can you tell us more about the program’s green initiative?**

- Job Corps is committed to the development of green-collar job training and the incorporation of energy-efficient practices on center.
- Our goal is to prepare 10,000 Job Corps graduates for employment opportunities in the green economy over the next 18 months.
- We have developed an 18-month implementation plan to prepare centers and our students for careers in the new green economy.

**Will the green initiative impact all trades?**

- We have identified three industry sectors as priorities for the greening initiative: automotive, construction, and manufacturing. These areas alone provide approximately 15,000 training opportunities at our centers.
- The greening initiative will impact all Job Corps career technical training areas, as well as life on center.

**Do you think we can really do this?**

- Throughout its history, Job Corps has adapted to meet the changing demands of the workforce. That is why we have been in business for 45 years. Our country and the youth we serve need us more now than ever.

**If a center receives more stimulus money than necessary to complete a project, can the additional money be used for other things?**

- No

**If we receive new computers, can we keep the old ones for use in other locations on center?**

- No. The plan as approved requires that the new PCs replace old PCs, beginning with the oldest first, not supplement a center’s PC inventory. Centers must "excess" their old equipment; property-management procedures must be followed.

**Can we assume additional funding to continue activities paid for by Recovery Act funds?**

- No. The goal is to buy equipment and create programs that will run without additional costs in the future.
- For example, stimulus money may be spent on equipment to upgrade a training area but it may not be spent on additional instructors/full-time employees (FTEs) for that trade.

**What about the New Vision? Did it go away?**

- Not at all. In fact, the stimulus plan and greening of Job Corps support the New Vision. We were already moving in this direction as part of the systemwide transformation now in progress. Now we're just moving a little faster.
- The transformation of the program to a standards-based education and training system – one that leads to certification for students, staff, and programs – remains a major priority.

**When can we expect more information, more details about the reporting requirements, etc.?**

- The Information Notice is the start of ongoing, regular communications with the field about the Recovery Act funds.
- We will provide more guidance and technical assistance as soon as possible.

**What can we do right now?**

- All centers are eligible to receive stimulus funds for the greening of Job Corps. You can think about how to apply those funds on center and start developing your proposals.