

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:

Cynthia Dockery (847) 360-7177

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Governor Quinn Announces New 'Put Illinois to Work' Employment Program

*Employee Connections, Inc., NFP Training and Staffing To
Coordinate Enrollment of Employers and Trainee-Workers in Lake
County, Illinois*

On Monday, April 26th Governor Pat Quinn unveiled the Put Illinois to Work (PIW) program, an anti-poverty program aimed at building a healthy workforce by putting unemployed and underemployed Illinois residents back to work. The new program is expected to create more than 15,000 jobs.

"Put Illinois to Work will provide good-paying jobs that will help support families and strengthen communities," said Governor Pat Quinn. "The program will also assist in building a workforce that possesses the skills, abilities and experiences that Illinois employers need to remain competitive in the U.S. and global marketplace."

Put Illinois to Work is a collaborative effort of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and Heartland Human Care Services (HHCS). **Employee Connections training and staffing agency located in Waukegan, IL is the subcontracted agency responsible for the successful delivery of Put Illinois to Work employment placement services** in all of Lake county.

Funding is provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Through Put Illinois to Work, eligible Illinois residents will be placed in subsidized employment positions with participating worksites for up to six months, learning valuable skills and supporting their families. The program will help stimulate Illinois' ailing economy and develop a healthy workforce by providing meaningful work experience for participants.

"Put Illinois to Work is an exciting opportunity to employ thousands of Illinoisans during a time of economic downturn and high unemployment," said IDHS Secretary Michelle R. B. Saddler. "The program will draw down federal funds that will stimulate the Illinois economy and even more importantly, will help the citizens we serve to gain critical skills in the workforce."

Private, public and non-profit businesses are encouraged to sign on with Put Illinois to Work. Eligible participants will be matched to subsidized employment opportunities with these worksites in hopes that they might transition into an unsubsidized position at the program's conclusion. Eligible worksites and participants must meet program criteria and agree to adhere to specific programmatic requirements. Participants must be caring for a minor child in the home, the non-custodial parent of a minor child or be between the ages of 18-21 and living with a parent or caretaker relative. All participants must have a household income below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$2,428 per month for a family of two) and be legally present and authorized to work.

Employee Connections will be holding **trainee-worker on-line enrollment** and **employer enrollment job fairs** for eligible participants will be held on the following dates and locations:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:

Cynthia Dockery (847) 360-7177

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Trainee-Worker On-line Enrollment Job Fairs (For Income Eligible Job Seekers Only):

Day	Date	Time	Location
Saturday	June 5, 2010	9:00am – 5:00pm	Community Action Partnership of Lake County (CAP) 1200 Glen Flora Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 249-4330
Saturday	June 12, 2010	9:00am – 5:00pm	Shiloh Baptist Church 800 E. Genesee Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 662-8414

Employer Information and On-line Enrollment Job Fair (For Employers Only)

Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	6/10/10	4:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Action Partnership of Lake County (CAP) 1200 Glen Flora Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 249-4330
Thursday	6/17/10	4:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Action Partnership of Lake County (CAP) 1200 Glen Flora Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 249-4330

Participants must bring copies only, of the following items:

Income Verification: Bring a COPY ONLY of:

- Proof of Income Document (s)
- Link card
- Food stamps
- Current medical I card with applicant's name on it
- Housing Authority section (8) resident
- Pay stub

Proof of Citizenship/Residence: Bring a COPY ONLY of:

- Social Security Card
- Valid Driver's License and or Photo ID
- Utility Bill

For more details on the eligibility criteria and additional information on Put Illinois to Work and eligibility criteria, visit www.PutIllinoisToWork.Illinois.gov.