

Job Front: Stimulus funds help Sacramento County job seekers

dvsmith@sacbee.com

Published Monday, Oct. 26, 2009

A stimulus-fueled jobs program hopes to help Sacramento County and local businesses put people to work.

The \$4 million Job Opportunity Program, led by the county's Department of Human Assistance using federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, targets low-income workers and those in the state's CalWORKs welfare-to-work program.

The yearlong program kicked off Oct. 1 and extends through Sept. 30, 2010, said department spokeswoman Lucinda Serynek.

The county office partners with local businesses, pre-screens applicants and pays 80 percent of the worker's wages. The business picks up the remaining 20 percent.

Employees in the program work for up to six months with the goal of being hired permanently; meanwhile, participants build up work experience, earn cash and increase their chances of finding other employment.

CalWORKs clients can call their caseworkers to learn more about the program and apply for jobs.

Those who aren't CalWORKs clients can call the department's Employment Services Bureau, 4990 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, at (916) 875-3330.

For additional information, call the Department of Human Assistance at (916) 875-3280.