



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

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DIR and DHR Urge Employers to Hire low Income Individuals *Federal Program will Reimburse Salary Expenses*

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees and Alabama Department of Human Resources Commissioner Nancy Buckner are urging Alabama’s employers to hire low income individuals. Employers who hire individuals who are part of DHR’s Family Assistance Program may be eligible to be reimbursed for 100% of gross wages paid to each qualifying individual for up to six months.

There are approximately 43,330 Alabamians who are currently receiving financial assistance through the Family Assistance Program each month. Of this number, approximately 10,000 are adults who are required to participate in the JOBS Program and may be eligible to work. Over 50% of these recipients are in the 20-29 age group, 41% have completed the 12th grade and 13% have more than a 12th grade education.

In addition to the employers’ repayment of gross wages, participants in the JOBS Program can also receive assistance in buying uniforms and paying for childcare and transportation expenses. Low income citizens who believe they may be eligible for Family Assistance benefits should visit DHR’s website, www.dhr.alabama.gov, for information on how to apply.

“Many of the participants in our JOBS program are anxious to get to work, utilize their skills and, in some cases, learn new skills,” stated Nancy Buckner. “This is a great opportunity for these workers to prove their value as an employee and to also help make a better life for their families.”

“I understand that hiring is tough these days,” said Surtees. “But I would like to encourage prospective employers to consider these applicants when making their hiring decisions. Not only will the employer benefit by having his or her expenses recompensed, but providing a seriously disadvantaged person with a job to help them

care for their family is an added bonus to our economy.”

The program is available until September 30, 2010. Employers who are interested in participating in the program are asked to contact their county DHR office or their local Career Center. 112 JOBS participants have already been hired through the program, working 17,297 hours with an average wage of \$8.24 an hour.

Anyone who is unemployed or underemployed can go to their local Career Center for assistance in finding a job. Applicants can also visit www.joblink.alabama.gov to see available positions.

Eighty percent of the cost of the subsidized employment program comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus dollars. The State of Alabama uses funds from the TANF Block Grant and in-kind matches to pay the remaining 20% cost of the program.

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616 or DHR Public Information Officer Barry Spear at (334) 242-1852