



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ✓

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## GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

April 24, 2009

Mr. Jim DeMartini  
Chairman/Supervisor  
Stanislaus County Alliance Network  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, #6500  
Modesto, California 95354

Dear Mr. DeMartini,

It is vital that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds be spent efficiently in ways that truly help our state through these difficult times and create jobs. The people demand it, and so does our economy. As California's unemployment rate tops 11 percent, you know full well the devastating effects job loss is having on your community. At the state level, I am committed to passing on Recovery Act dollars quickly and to helping local governments use these dollars. My administration recently spent \$415 million in Workforce Investment Act ARRA funds to California's 49 local Workforce Investment Boards.

But before we can see the benefits of this funding, you must do your part to ensure the money is being spent – and spent well – in your community. I urge you to work closely with your Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) to expedite the use of these funds. Where bureaucratic roadblocks exist, clear them. Where political distractions may be slowing the process, eliminate them. Every day of delay is another day our state and your community is not working its way out of an economic slump, and I am committed to helping you use Recovery Act dollars to hasten our recovery.

Workforce Investment Act funding is now available throughout the state to help workers understand where jobs will be created, gain new skills, receive training and education and move into career paths that will help them succeed in the labor market. The funds can be used for businesses at risk of more layoffs, and to help those displaced move more quickly into new occupations and jobs. This funding will also create summer job opportunities for thousands of youth between the ages of 16 and 24, which will give them work experience, education, and wages – an investment in California's future in more ways than one.

As an elected official there are three critically important roles you can play in this process:

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First, ensure that a large-scale summer youth program is up and running in your community. The U.S. Department of Labor has made it clear that the majority of the youth funding should be expended this summer on summer youth employment programs. I couldn't agree more. You should be directing your city and county departments to make jobs available, as well as working with your LWIB to ensure that there are jobs available in your community's nonprofit organizations and in the private sector where appropriate. This all has to be done immediately as summer will soon be here.

Second, remove bureaucratic obstacles so this funding can get to work in your community as quickly as possible. Thousands of your constituents are walking through the doors of your local One-Stop Career Centers, some experiencing unemployment for the first time in their lives. They need help. By expediting procurement and spending authority, you will help get the resources to those who urgently need services.

Third, you can play a pivotal role in ensuring that there is coordination among all of the job training-related Recovery Act resources coming into your community. Funding through the Workforce Investment Act is a large share of the ARRA job training funding, but there are also resources going to other local agencies for weatherization, construction, brown field cleanup, energy and transportation projects. Use your Local Workforce Investment Board as a convener and broker to maximize your community's job training funds in the most effective and accountable manner.

Thank you for all you are doing to help get our economy growing and to get jobseekers back to work again. I, along with my Recovery Task Force and state agencies, stand ready to work with you to see that the funds coming to your local area are spent with the greatest speed and economic impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "A" at the start and a long, sweeping underline.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

/la