

Workforce Review

A monthly review of labor market information for Northern Santa Clara County

April 2009

Did you know?

Stimulus creates jobs for disadvantaged youths

As part of the stimulus bill passed in February, Congress included \$1.2 billion for youth employment, primarily a summer jobs program for disadvantaged 14- to 24-year-olds. The federal money is being dispensed to state employment commissions. California's share, \$158 million, is being distributed by the Employment Development Department through 49 regional Workforce Investment Boards. Most counties and some large cities have their own boards. With little infrastructure in place and summer just around the

corner, the program is expected to create thousands of jobs for disadvantaged youths. The federal money is being dispensed to state employment commissions. California's share, \$158 million, is being distributed by the Employment Development Department through 49 regional Workforce Investment Boards. Most counties and some large cities have their own boards. With little infrastructure in place and summer just around the corner, the program is expected to create thousands of jobs for disadvantaged youths.

"The purpose of the program is not just to provide extra income to poor families, but to "help economically challenged kids get ready in various ways to enter the job market," says Earl Johnson, interim director of the Oakland Workforce Investment Board.

To be eligible, applicants must be age 14 to 24, have a right to work in the United States and be "low-income" according to federal poverty guidelines, which vary by family size. A family of four must earn less than roughly \$27,000 a year. They also must be at least 14 years old and have a high school diploma or GED.

The NOVA board, which covers northern Silicon Valley, is already interviewing applicants for a wide variety of positions. "We have almost 40 different work sites," says Jennifer Springer, NOVA's employment training manager. "The city of Mountain View is participating in the program, as is the city of Sunnyvale. We are also participating in the program at the organic farm in Sunnyvale and in a recycling program for the city of Sunnyvale."

Source: San Francisco Chronicle (05/17/09)



Developing a skilled workforce for Silicon Valley

