

Program Opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Category	Program Name	Description	Eligibility Criteria	General Information about the Increase	How benefits/opportunities are accessed	If benefit increases are automatic, general information about what to	Link to Additional Information
Early Learning	Head Start	Funding to carry out activities under the Head Start Act. Includes a COLA, quality improvement activities, funding for Early Childhood Advisory Councils, and the expansion of preschool slots.	Families under 100% of FPL, or families with a child with a delay or disability (on an IFSP).	Ohio is estimating that an additional 400 slots will be available for 3, 4 and 5 year olds.	Local grantees (approximately 57 statewide) determine eligibility.	Not Applicable	Ohio Head Start Association: www.ohsai.org .
Food Support	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Formerly the federal Food Stamp Program, SNAP helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health.	Households at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level.	Starting April 1st, the maximum monthly benefit allotment provided to eligible households will increase by 13 percent.	Eligible Ohioans can apply for benefits at the County Department of Job and Family Services in the County in which they reside or through the Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB). For more information, including OBB site information, call (800) 648-1176	1-Apr-09	Individuals can contact the County Department of Job and Family Services in the county where they reside. http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntydir.stm .
Food Support	Older Americans Act Title III C Nutrition Funding	These funds support programs that provide nutritious meals to individuals age 60 and above.	Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition funds support programs that provide nutritious meals through home delivered meal programs or at congregate sites (e.g. senior centers) to individuals age 60 and above. While the only eligibility criteria for Older Americans Act services is age, area agencies on aging (AAAs) and providers (e.g., meal on wheels programs, senior centers) target services to those geographic areas that are most in need.	The ARRA funds will allow providers to enroll new consumers and, in some cases, provide additional meals to current consumers.	Through local providers.	Not Applicable	Program information on Ohio Department of Aging Web site at http://aging.ohio.gov/information/nutrition/ . Information about nutrition program availability is available through regional area agencies on aging at 1-866-243-5678.

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Food Support	Food and Nutrition Service - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC)	WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.	1) Pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, infants to age 1 and children ages 1-5. 2) Resident of Ohio 3) Physical presence in clinic 4) Proof of identity 5) At or below 185% poverty level 6) Nutrition/medical risk as determined by a WIC health professional.	Not applicable.	Applications taken at WIC clinics in all 88 Ohio counties.	Not applicable.	1-800-755-4769 WIC/Help Me Grow
Food Support	Commodity Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Commodity Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides federally-funded commodities and funds for distribution of said commodities to state network of food banks.	Low-income families and individuals at or below 200% FPL.	Provides for additional funding to participating food banks in Ohio.	Additional food products will be distributed through the Ohio network of food banks and local food pantries.	Not Applicable	To locate a food bank, visit: http://jfs.ohio.gov/ofam/TEFAP/Emergency_Food_Assistance_Program_Map1.pdf .
Healthcare	Medicaid	Medicaid is like health insurance. It provides health coverage to eligible people of all ages who do not have the money or sufficient health insurance coverage for medical care.	To qualify for Medicaid coverage in Ohio, a person must meet basic requirements: they must be a U.S. Citizen or meet Medicaid citizenship requirements; they must be an Ohio resident; they must possess or obtain a Social Security Number, and they must meet certain financial requirements.	Not Applicable	Applications are available online at http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/ . Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680 (TDD 1-800-292-3572 for the hearing impaired). Hotline staff can provide general information or offer assistance in filling out the application over the telephone or at local county department of job & family services.	Not Applicable.	Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680 (TDD 1-800-292-3572 for the hearing impaired). Hotline staff can provide general information or offer assistance in filling out the application over the telephone.

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Healthcare	COBRA	Premium Subsidies for COBRA Continuation Coverage for Unemployed Workers -- This provision would federally subsidize COBRA coverage on a time-limited basis for unemployed persons.	To qualify for COBRA, a worker must have been involuntarily separated between September 1, 2008, and December 31, 2009. Workers who lost their jobs between September 1, 2008 and February 17, 2009 but failed to initially elect COBRA because it was unaffordable, will have an additional 60 days to elect COBRA and receive the subsidy. This subsidy phases out for individuals whose modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$125,000, or \$250,000 for those filing joint returns. Taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$145,000, or \$290,000 for those filing joint returns, do not qualify for the subsidy.	The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act subsidizes 65% of eligible individuals' COBRA health insurance and other state group continuation coverage for workers who lose their jobs. Please see: http://www.ohioinsurance.gov/documents/FederalStimulusGroupCoverageContinuationSubsidy .	Employers are required to send a notice to former employees so that former employees can elect to continue their group coverage and receive the subsidy. Former employees will have from the first day they are eligible until 60 days after receiving the notice to enroll. Further details about enrollment will be provided by the federal Department of Labor. For the most up-to-date information, contact the Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or visit http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html .	Not applicable.	For more information, please visit: http://www.ohioinsurance.gov/documents/FederalStimulusGroupCoverageContinuationSubsidy .
Home Weatherization and Jobs	Home Weatherization	Weatherization program provides services to low-income households in Ohio to reduce energy costs.	Income eligibility up to 200% of the Poverty Ratio.	Increase in the number of households being weatherized. Employment for the skill set that is needed for the delivery of service.	Through a combined Energy Assistance application through the local non-profit provider and partner organizations.	Stimulus money may be tied into the start of HWAP program year (4/01/09-9/30/10).	To learn more about this program and to contact a local provider, visit: http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/hwap.htm . Please also call the toll free hotline 1-800-282-0880.

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Housing Assistance	Independent Living Program Part B	The Independent Living program includes the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and local centers for independent living (CILs). The Council develops, monitors, and evaluates the state plan for independent living. The Council also provides financial assistance to the CILs, as well as assistance in developing a statewide network of CILs. The local centers for independent living provide services to assist people with severe disabilities to live independently and avoid institutionalization. Services provided include information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, and independent living skills training.	The Independent Living (IL) Part B funds are distributed to IL Centers based on the State Plan for Independent Living.	The additional appropriation will be a 141% increase in funds available to IL in Ohio and will lead to increased services to assist people with severe disabilities to live independently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund allocation notice is received from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. • The Ohio allocation is distributed to IL Centers based on the statewide plan developed in cooperation with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). • Consumers who meet eligibility requirements work with IL Center counselors to develop an individual plan for services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal funds are provided to the Centers on a reimbursement basis. • Federal funds are drawn based on actual billing 	Ohio State Independent Living Council: Voice/TTY: (614) 892-0390 Toll Free/TTY: (800) 566-7788, or www.ohiosilc.org RSC: In Ohio - (800) 282-4536 voice/TTY or www.rsc.state.oh.us
Job Training and Placement	Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult Employment Grant	The program is intended to support employment and training activities for adults, including worker training and retraining, occupational and vocational testing and counseling services, and employment readiness activities.	Contact the nearest One Stop for additional information - http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	The additional funds being allocated to the local WIA areas will allow for more adults to be served and/or for additional services to be provided based upon the WIA regulations. Funds will be available to local WIA areas in April 2009.	The Workforce Investment Areas deliver the WIA adult program through their local One Stop. Ohio has 90 One Stop Systems. For a map of Ohio's One Stop Systems, go to: http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	Not Applicable.	Individuals can contact their local WIA area where they reside for eligibility and enrollment information. http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm

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Job Training and Placement	Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Grant	The program is intended to support employment and training activities for workers who have been laid-off, including worker training and retraining, occupational and vocational testing and counseling services, and employment readiness activities.	Contact the nearest One Stop for additional information - http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	The additional funds being allocated to the local WIA areas will allow for more dislocated workers to be served and/or for additional services to be provided based on WIA regulations. It will also allow for local WIA areas to better respond to the needs of employers who may be in need of upgrading the skills of their current workforce. Funds will be available to local WIA areas in April 2009.	The Workforce Investment Areas deliver the WIA dislocated worker program through their local One Stop. Ohio has 90 One Stop Systems. For a map of Ohio's One Stop Systems go to http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	Not Applicable.	Individuals can contact their local WIA area where they reside for eligibility and enrollment information. http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm
Job Training and Placement	Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Employment and Training Grant	The program is intended to support employment and training activities for youth, including training and skills-building activities.	Contact the nearest One Stop for additional information - http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	The additional funds being allocated to the local WIA areas will allow for more youth to be served and/or for additional services to be provided based on the WIA regulations. Funds will be available to local WIA areas in April 2009.	The Workforce Investment Areas deliver the WIA youth program through their local One Stop. Ohio has 90 One Stop Systems. For a map of Ohio's One Stop Systems go to http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	Not Applicable.	Individuals can contact their local WIA area where they reside for eligibility and enrollment information. http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm
Job Training and Placement	Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	SCSEP is a program operated by the U.S. Department of Labor. It serves unemployed individuals with low incomes (125% of poverty) who are 55 and over and have poor employment prospects. Eligible individuals are placed in part-time community service assignments in not-for-profit organizations or governmental entities, and they are paid state minimum wage for 20 hours per week. The ultimate goal is to transition participants to unsubsidized employment.	Individuals must be age 55 or over and at or below 125% of poverty.	It is estimated that there will be 600+ new SCSEP slots statewide.	Individuals may apply through the Ohio Benefit Bank and at their nearest One-Stop Employment and Training Center. http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm .	SCSEP program operators should be able to access ARRA funds on March 19th. Existing clients won't see a change. These funds are to enroll new clients.	Individuals should call the provider in their area. If they aren't able to obtain that information, they should call 1-877-632-7827. http://www.aging.ohio.gov/services/seniorcommunityservice/employmentprogram/scsproviders.aspx .

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Job Training and Placement	State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations Grant (Wagner-Peyser)	The Employment Services program provides job-related services to workers and employers, primarily through the One-Stop Center delivery network, including job search assistance, job referral, and placement assistance for job seekers, re-employment services to unemployment insurance claimants, and recruitment services to employers with job openings, among other services.	Employment Service funds increase the State's capacity to serve job seekers through Ohio's One Stop system.	The State of Ohio will maintain or increase services to the job seeker.	Individuals can contact their local One Stop for job seeker services. http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Job Training and Placement	Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reauthorization	TAA is a state-administered federal program that provides special benefits to workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing or increased imports. Benefits include: Trade Readjustment Assistance (a form of special cash assistance), funds for training, a wage subsidy for workers aged 50+, a health care tax credit, and relocation allowances, and more.	No changes to eligibility for individuals. Undetermined eligibility for employers, communities, and farmers, as the USDOL guidelines will not be issued until May 17, 2009.	This provision extends and reauthorizes the program for individuals, and it expands it to service sector employees, affected communities, public agency workers, and "down-stream producers of goods."	By application to ODJFS, Office of Unemployment Compensation, TRADE Section.	After May 17, 2009.	Please contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at Trade@jfs.ohio.gov.
Job Training and Placement	Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)	This program provides direct, personalized VR services to help Ohioans with severe disabilities get and keep jobs and become self-sufficient.	The Vocational Rehabilitation program serves Ohioans with disabilities. Eligible applicants must have: 1.) a disability that creates a substantial impediment to employment; 2.) the ability to benefit from services; and 3.) the need for VR services to get or keep a job.	The additional funds allocated to the VR program will enable RSC to increase its case services budget and provide services to more consumers.	Anyone can make a referral to RSC and it also accepts self-referrals. Referrals may be made in writing, by telephone, or through a visit to the nearest RSC office.	Depending on guidance from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, RSC could begin to draw down federal funds as needed to provide authorized services. All federal expenditures are subject to the Cash Management Act, which requires federal funds to be drawn no sooner than 3 days before expenditure. This will impact how and when funds are drawn.	Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation - (800) 282-4536, ext. 1438 or www.rsc.ohio.gov.

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Small Business Support	Small Business	Small Business Assistance	Small businesses with less than 500 employees will pre-qualify; then, they can apply directly to the bank or lending institution for new or re-structured loans; upon bank approval, SBA will guarantee a loan up to 90 percent.	In order for this program to become dynamic, lenders need to be willing to increase the risk of creating and re-structuring small business loans. Reduced fees will be reimbursed to the bank by the SBA. SBA will also have authority to re-sell the guaranteed loans with a 1st lien position.	Approvals for small business loans come from the lenders; SBA negotiates the secondary market loans. Please contact the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-248-4040 with questions.	Not Applicable	Ohio Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC). Complete location details can be found at: http://www.entrepreneurio.org/Mapresults.aspx?showall=y&groupby=area&hideeventonly=y . You may also try: www.Entrepreneurio.org then click on the Local Centers tab at the top of the page. Or Call the toll free hot line - 1-800-248-4040
Special Needs Services	Independent Living / Older Blind	This program assists individuals age 55 and above, whose recent severe visual impairment makes competitive employment extremely difficult to obtain, but for whom independent living goals are feasible. Funds are used to provide independent living services, conduct activities that will improve or expand services for those individuals, and promote public understanding of the issue. Services are designed to help people served under the program adjust to their vision loss by increasing their ability to care for their individual needs. People served are generally over the age of 70 and want to continue working, volunteering, or maintaining their homes.	This program assists individuals age 55 and above, whose recent severe visual impairment makes competitive employment extremely difficult to obtain, but for whom independent living goals are feasible.	Funds are used to provide independent living services, conduct activities that will improve or expand services for those individuals, and promote public understanding of the issue. Services are designed to help people served under the program adjust to their vision loss by increasing their ability to care for their individual needs. People served are generally over the age of 70 and want to continue working, volunteering, or maintaining their homes.	The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) contracts with 11 community rehabilitation providers to administer the program statewide. Several areas are not covered by contracts and services are provided using BSVI staff.	Not applicable under this program.	Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired 1-800-282-4536 ext. 1438

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Unemployment Assistance	Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Extension	The federally-funded Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program enables unemployment claimants to receive up to 33 weeks of additional unemployment benefits, following the exhaustion of their regular state-funded unemployment benefits. This provision extends the deadlines of the program.	Individuals must be eligible to receive unemployment benefits.	This provision extends the deadline for the expiration of the current emergency extended unemployment to December 31, 2009. The payment level of benefits remains unchanged.	Individuals apply for unemployment benefits.	No increases in benefits. This only increases the period of eligibility, which is automatic and effective Feb. 17, 2009.	1-877-644-6562 or unemployment.ohio.gov
Unemployment Assistance	\$25 Increase in Unemployment Compensation Benefits	\$25 Increase in Unemployment Compensation Benefits -- This provision would provide a federally funded \$25 increase in weekly unemployment benefits for each unemployment claimant through 12/31/09.	Individuals must be eligible to receive either regular, emergency, or extended unemployment benefits.	\$25 will be added to whatever amount is received by an individual for either regular, emergency, or extended unemployment benefits.	No application necessary. ODJFS Unemployment program will automatically pay the additional \$25 to the individuals.	ODJFS expects the system to operate before May 1, 2009. No individuals will lose benefits during the waiting period for operations to begin. When operational, the system will pay lump sums for all individuals who earned \$25 per week during the waiting period.	ODJFS Office Of Communications: (614) 466-9482
Unemployment Assistance	Unemployment Benefits	Temporary suspension of taxation of unemployment benefits -- This provision would allow unemployment claimants to receive a federal income tax credit on the first \$2,400 of their unemployment benefits.	Individuals must collect unemployment benefits in calendar year 2009.	No increases in benefits. The provision reduces the amount of federal tax that individuals pay on unemployment benefits received.	Automatic with the filing of the federal tax return.	Not Applicable	ODJFS Office Of Communications: (614) 466-9482.

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Victim Services	Victims' Compensation	Victims' Compensation will provide funding for victim programs that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, homicide, and other federal and state crimes. Additionally, funds will be used to provide compensation to victims of crime.	The victim must file an application within two years of the date of the crime (minors have until their 20th birthday to file for compensation). The crime must be reported within 72 hours (unless good cause for the delay), and the victim/claimant must cooperate with the reasonable request of law enforcement. The Victim must not have committed a criminal act that caused or contributed to the injuries.	The increase in funding could pay for an additional 703 claims. The average dollar amount per claim for 2008 was \$2845.	Eligible Ohioans can apply for benefits by completing an application from the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Crime Victims Assistance and Prevention (CVAP). For more information, including CVAP site information, call (800) 582-2877	Estimated date that the funds will be made available is March 9, 2009.	Victims can contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Crime Victims Assistance and Prevention (CVAP) at (800) 582-2877. http://www.ag.state.oh.us/victim/compensation.asp

Relevant Programs and Opportunities

General Services	The Ohio Benefit Bank	The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) is a web-based (software), counselor-assisted tool that breaks down barriers and helps connect Ohioans in accessing work supports and tax credits by providing simplified, one-stop locations for clients to work with trained counselors in completing tax returns and other benefit applications forms.	Eligibility criteria varies across 20+ programs provided through the OBB. Free tax preparation and filing services are available to households with incomes at or below \$56,000 a year.	The OBB checks potential eligibility and completes applications for work supports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food stamps • Children's health insurance • Medicaid • Low-Income Home Energy Assistance • Child care subsidies • TANF cash assistance • Ohio's Best Rx • Golden Buckeye Card • Senior Community Service Employment • School Breakfast and Lunch, After-School and Summer Nutrition Programs. Additionally, OBB helps families complete the application for federal student aid. The OBB also provides free tax assistance and access to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credits. 	Free tax preparation is available to all Ohioans with incomes at or below \$56,000 a year. Ohioans eligible for work support benefit can complete applications and have them submitted to local Job and Family Services or relevant entity. Find a local Ohio Benefit Bank site by visiting www.obb.ohio.gov/ , or calling 1-800-648-1176.	Not Applicable	Information about the Ohio Benefit Bank can be accessed through the website at www.obb.ohio.gov/ , and by contacting our office at 800-648-1176.
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Foreclosure Assistance	Save the Dream: Ohio's Foreclosure Prevention Effort	Save the Dream is the State of Ohio's foreclosure prevention effort aimed at helping Ohioans take action to save their dream of homeownership. This unique multi-agency effort supports the recommendations of the Ohio Foreclosure Prevention Task Force by making free help easily available for Ohioans.	Anyone is eligible for free housing counseling services and a legal review of their situation. To qualify for full legal representation, basic income eligibility is 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which is about \$54,000 annual income for a family of four. Calling the hotline is the way for borrowers to be connected with a housing counselor or attorney.	The Save the Dream Web site provides information on the foreclosure process, available resources in each county (provided in a downloadable tri-fold brochure for each county), tips on avoiding "rescue" scams, information on legal assistance, and answers to frequently asked questions. Ohioans who call the hotline are asked a series of questions to identify their needs. Some calls will be forwarded to a housing counselor. Some homeowners who have had a foreclosure case filed against them will be referred for legal assistance. Save the Dream housing counselors can also determine if a caller qualifies for foreclosure rescue grants or loans.	Valuable information and resources can be accessed through the Web site, savethedream.ohio.gov, and the hotline, 888-404-4674.	Not Applicable	Valuable information and resources can be accessed through the Web site, savethedream.ohio.gov, and the hotline, 888-404-4674.
MBE	Minority Business Enterprise	MBE program is designed to assist minority businesses in obtaining state government contracts through a set aside procurement program for goods and services only. The State of Ohio developed the program because it is committed to making all state contracts, services, benefits and opportunities available without discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability. MBE establishes a 15% goal for state agencies, boards and commissions and state universities in awarding contracts to certified MBE businesses.	An MBE participant must be a must be members of one or more of the following groups: African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics and Asian Americans and be owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are Ohio residents. In addition the business must have been in business for (1) year and be a for profit organization.	N/A	State agencies are required to set-aside 15% of the agency's Goods & Services eligible budget for expenditure with MBE certified firms only. Through the Department of Development additional benefits such as capital access, direct loan program, technical assistance for accounting, bid packing etc. is available.	Not Applicable	Individuals may contact The Equal Opportunity Division at 614-466-8380. Additional program information is located at www.mbe.ohio.gov.

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EDGE	Encouraging Diversity Growth & Equity	The EDGE is program designed by the state to facilitate access to state government contracts and business services for EDGE certified businesses. The EDGE program establishes goals for state agencies in awarding contracts to certified EDGE businesses. EDGE procurement contracts apply to: goods and services, professional services, information technology services, construction, architecture and engineering.	An EDGE participant must be a small socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprise owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are Ohio residents. In addition the business must have been in business for (1) year and be a for profit organization.	N/A	State agencies are required to spend 5% of the agency's total eligible budget for expenditure with EDGE certified firms only. Through the Department of Development additional benefits such as capital access, direct loan program, technical assistance for accounting, bid packing etc. is available.	Not Applicable	Individuals may contact The Equal Opportunity Division at 614-466-8380. Additional program information is located at www.edge.ohio.gov .