

South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
www.sdjobs.org

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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094

Labor Department creating summer work experiences through federal stimulus funding

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has received almost \$3 million in federal stimulus funds for youth job training. The money will pay for work experiences this summer for people 14 to 24 years old.

DOL is eligible for a total of \$26.9 million for workforce programs through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“DOL is working with employers to create summer job opportunities for eligible young people in South Dakota,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “The stimulus funds will pay for their summer employment.”

Work experiences will help less experienced workers, such as teenagers, establish a work history and gain references. They will earn cash while building good work habits and skills.

In addition, paid internships are being set up for college and technical institute students to practice the skills they have already learned. Young adults will benefit from work and training experiences by exploring their career options. Wages will be paid by DOL from the additional stimulus funds.

“DOL staff are anxious to discuss these options with job seekers,” said Secretary Roberts. “Any one of our 18 local offices can provide assistance.

Applicants must meet federal economic guidelines to qualify. Eligibility is based on the applicant’s work experience and current situation.

DOL works to provide businesses with employment-related solutions and help people with job placement and career transition services. To learn about available programs and view an office directory, visit www.sdjobs.org.