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## **Labor Department awarded \$617,000 for job training**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has been awarded \$617,040 in federal funds for an on-the-job training program. The National Emergency Grant is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“This grant will provide new opportunities for dislocated workers to upgrade their skills or learn new skills,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “These resources will help unemployed South Dakotans get back to work.”

Businesses creating on-the-job training opportunities can be reimbursed 50 percent to 90 percent of the wage rate, depending on the size of the businesses. The reimbursement is to assist with the costs of the training.

“This is a win-win scenario,” said Secretary Roberts. “Workers get to earn while they learn, and employers will have trained and skilled employees who can be hired permanently.”

Private for-profit and non-profit businesses can participate. Businesses are responsible for providing adequate and appropriate short-term training. They must also strongly consider hiring the workers full time when their training is complete.

Eligible workers for this on-the-job training program include those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own after Jan. 1, 2008. They must also have been unemployed for the previous 15 weeks.

More information on this program and other re-employment services is available from any DOL local office. A directory is found at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)