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## **Secretary Gassman Announces \$2 Million Job Training Hiring Initiative**

### ***ARRA-funded program will assist employers who hire people with disabilities***

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced a \$2 million On-the-Job Training Hiring Initiative, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to pay 50% of the wages plus fringe benefits for up to 90 days when employers hire people with disabilities.

“We have nearly 6,000 consumers who are ‘job ready,’ and this Recovery-funded effort will help them reach their employment goals,” Secretary Gassman said. “These individuals have much to offer. I encourage employers in search of dependable, dedicated workers to consider hiring these individuals.”

The On-the-Job Training Hiring Initiative will be administered through the DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Job candidates will be referred from DVR’s pool of job-ready customers. The DVR provides employment and training services for people with disabilities.

DVR Administrator Charlene Dwyer called the program a “win-win” for DVR customers and employers. While DVR customers gain employment, the initiative lets employers train the DVR customer for half the company’s usual training cost per worker. The employer also becomes eligible for tax benefits in hiring an individual with a disability.

DVR Administrator Dwyer said the process is easy for employers. Employers simply hire a DVR referral and process their employment paperwork as they would for any other employee. A one-page agreement with DVR, completed by the employer, will secure the employer’s OJT Hiring Initiative payment.

For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) visit the [DWD ARRA Web site](#). Please visit the DVR web site for more on the OJT Hiring Initiative: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/dvr/pdf/dvr\\_16655\\_p.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/dvr/pdf/dvr_16655_p.pdf)