

PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment • 633 Seventeenth Street, Suite 1200 • Denver, CO 80202 •
(303) 318-8004 • Fax: (303) 318-8070



For Immediate Release

Date: October 17, 2012
Contact: Bill Thoennes (303-318-8004) or Cher Haavind (303-318-8003)
Office of Government, Policy and Public Relations
Website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cdle>

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS WORKFORCE CENTER RAMPS UP OUTREACH TO EMPLOYERS NEEDING SKILLED WORKERS

Many employers unaware of training grant dollars that must be expended

(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS) -- The Steamboat Springs Workforce Center has announced plans to ramp up outreach efforts to notify employers about on-the-job training programs that are available to them – before the funding disappears.

Grant dollars have been provided to the Workforce Center by the U.S. Department of Labor, designed to help workers update their job skills and acquire new skills so they can return to the job market. Those grant dollars also benefit Steamboat Springs employers who have identified a disconnect between the workplace skills they need and the skills they are finding.

These grant dollars can help get dislocated workers back to work and reduce turnover and training costs for businesses. But federal cuts to those training funds and the dollars will not be available indefinitely. “As long as the money is here in our community, we need to take advantage of it,” says Workforce Center Director Rosemary Pettus. “Our goal is to ensure that businesses benefit from these grant dollars while the funding remains available.”

On-the-job training grants are reimbursed directly to employers up to one-half of a trainee’s gross wages for the duration of the training period. The program can be customized for skilled and semi-skilled jobs and employers can use their own training programs to teach new employees, ensuring they get the results they need.

Participating employers receive free screening, assessment and referrals of applicants. The employer makes the final hiring decision, determines job performance standards, and has the right to terminate a trainee if necessary. “Our staff will assist them through all phases of the program and provide prompt monthly payments with a minimum of paperwork,” Pettus says.

(More)

Press Release: Steamboat Springs Workforce Center Ramps Up Outreach to Employers

October 17, 2012

Page 2

She urges local employers with staffing needs to contact the Steamboat Springs Workforce Center for more information about the program and how it can strengthen businesses and the region's skilled workforce. The Steamboat Springs Workforce Center is at 425 Anglers Drive and can be reached at 970-879-3075.

#