



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

February 24, 2010

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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES USES RECOVERY
MONEY TO PUT 100 MARYLANDERS TO WORK**

Newly employed were recipients of state assistance programs

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Department of Human Resources used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to create 100 Family Investment Aide positions. These entry-level positions provide administrative help to local departments of social services and help process record-breaking numbers of applications.

The positions are being filled with people who previously received Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA); non-custodial child support parents, fatherhood programs participants, and young adults leaving foster care. These new jobs will provide those hired with the opportunity to obtain “family-supporting” salaries – some for the very first time.

One recent hire is Eugene Laster. Mr. Laster was raised in the Maryland foster care system. He is determined not to be adversely affected by the fact that he was raised without his parents. He is also committed to breaking that cycle for his own children. His goal is to have a strong, healthy relationship with the mother of his children.

Even though they were married, the couple soon found themselves on the verge of separating. Mr. Laster, however, enrolled in a DHR-sponsored fatherhood program. Laster was more determined than ever to save his marriage – thus preserving his relationship with his children. The program helped him to gain training that prepared him to apply for and obtain one of the family investment aide jobs made available by the ARRA funding.

Jannel, another recent program graduate and mother of three boys, worked in the private sector and was on a career track before the company she worked for closed its Maryland office, almost two years ago.

“I actively looked for a job everyday for a year before going to social services to apply for temporary cash assistance,” said Jannel. This new position has helped her to get back on track for herself and for her children.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary

“This is a win-win situation for everyone,” said Brenda Donald, secretary of Department of Human Resource. “Our employees get additional help, our economy is helped and we can provide more assistance to our customers.”

The Department has hired and trained aides for 87 of the positions. Baltimore City, Baltimore and Howard counties received the first 20 aides. The second cohort of 20 aides have begun employment in Anne Arundel and Harford counties, Baltimore City, and a new Customer Care Center — the first of three — that opened in January.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state’s social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. DHR serves over 760,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland’s fourth largest state agency.