



News Release

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Wage subsidies available for businesses hiring new employees

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! offers funds for on-the-job training for new employees

Greenwood Village, Colo. --- Colorado businesses who are looking to grow their workforce can now receive a salary subsidy to help cover the costs of hiring and training a new employee.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is one of eight workforce centers across the Metro Area that is offering wage subsidies to businesses through a pilot project funded by the Colorado Department of Human Services in partnership with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Coined "HIRE Colorado," this program offers businesses an innovative resource for recruiting new employees which gives them on-the-job experience and reduces their demand for public assistance when unemployment benefits run out.

Businesses who hire an Arapahoe or Douglas county resident into a full-time paid on-the-job training before June 30 may be eligible to receive a subsidy up to \$6,000 to recover the costs of recruiting, training, and wages for each individual. Subsidies are only available for full-time positions that provide at least 32 hours of work per week. To qualify, a business must have been in operation in Colorado for at least 120 days, pay into workers' compensation and unemployment insurance programs, and have not laid off employees within the past six months.

"Businesses who are looking to grow in order to compete in this economy can benefit greatly from these subsidies, which can offset your up-front costs of pursuing, training and bringing on a qualified candidate," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "If you're unable to hire an employee currently, consider offering a paid on-the-job training opportunity to a citizen who can support your company and gain valuable skills that will benefit our regional economy in the future."

June 30 is the deadline to apply for wage subsidies. Arapahoe/Douglas Works! will administer more than \$1.4 million in HIRE Colorado funds and anticipates it will provide approximately 219 subsidies to businesses.

The workforce center also has a diverse pool of registered job-seekers, and can connect interested businesses with qualified candidates, as well as offer no-cost recruitment support and hiring events.

To apply for a subsidy, or for more information about the workforce center's free services for businesses, please contact Dawn Gardner, Business Development Supervisor at 303-636-1275 or dgardner@co.arapahoe.co.us, or visit www.adworks.org.

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