



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**MAYOR NEWSOM CREATES 1,000 JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED SAN FRANCISCANS USING FEDERAL STIMULUS RESOURCES**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—Today Mayor Newsom announced a new initiative, JOBS NOW, to put 1,000 San Franciscans back to work using \$25 million in federal stimulus funding. The program began a pilot phase in May and has already placed almost 200 workers.

“Times are tough, so we need to get creative and innovative about how we find people jobs and get them working again,” said Mayor Newsom. “These resources come directly from President Obama’s stimulus plan and the people that find jobs through this program are the living, breathing proof that stimulus dollars are reaching the people who need the most help.”

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) includes \$5 billion nationwide to create the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF-ECF), which provides federal funds to pay for 80 percent of the costs of subsidized employment programs. California will receive \$1.8 billion in federal funds to pass through to counties for this program.

San Francisco will use almost \$25 million of this federal stimulus funding to significantly expand subsidized employment opportunities for those looking for work, with a goal of placing 1,000 participants in jobs between May 2009 and September 2010.

Specifically, individuals who have a child and an income of less than 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for the program. The 200% of poverty income limit represents a monthly income of about \$3,000 for a family of three (annual income of about \$36,000). In short, if you are a person who has a child (whether living with you or not) and are unemployed and looking for work, you will be eligible for a job through the JOBS NOW program.

The JOBS NOW program also benefits local employers by providing a pool of qualified workers and by subsidizing 100% of their wages until September 30, 2010 (when the federal funding expires).

JOBS NOW builds upon several successful transitional jobs programs already in place at San Francisco’s Human Services Agency (HSA), which are designed to help unemployed individuals address barriers to employment, develop skills, gain work experience and progress toward self-sufficiency. After leaving JOBS NOW, participants will exit the program with a stable employment history, leaving them better positioned to obtain an unsubsidized job when the stimulus period ends.

Participants will be recruited through the Human Services Agency, One Stop Career Centers, community-based organizations and by employers themselves. All potential participants will be referred to HSA and will be screened for eligibility. Interested participants can apply to enroll in JOBS NOW by calling 1-877-JOB1NOW or 311 or by visiting the HSA website at [www.sfhsa.org](http://www.sfhsa.org).

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