

**Theodore R. Kulongoski**  
Governor



### ***Oregon Emergency Jobs Program***

As a result of the national recession, demand for services is at an all time high as thousands of Oregonians are turning to the state for assistance, many for the first time. With help from the Federal government, the state is doing its best to meet the needs of Oregon families. The state is also continuing its economic development efforts across the state, working with existing companies to help them stay, grow and create new job opportunities, while also aggressively recruiting new companies to Oregon.

In an effort to continue to help Oregonians in any way government can during this difficult economic period, Governor Kulongoski crafted an emergency jobs program to do two things: provide temporary jobs for unemployed Oregonians and meet real needs in our communities.

#### ***Goal: Provide Jobs for Oregonians and Support for Our Communities***

The program will create 12,000 entry-level, temporary jobs to provide employment for Oregonians in projects that will help communities and families throughout the state.

#### ***This Program Will Increase Posted Openings for Entry-level Jobs Almost 20-Fold Statewide***

More than 81,000 unemployed Oregonians registered with the Employment Department are seeking entry-level jobs. But fewer than 700 job openings are currently available. This program will increase by almost 20-fold the number of entry-level jobs available.

- Most of the jobs will pay in the range of \$8.40 to \$10.00 per hour. Some will be as short as a month or four months, others will continue for up to six months.
- All unemployed Oregonians will be eligible for these jobs.

The state's Community Colleges and Workforce Development agency will oversee the program, utilizing the resources of the state's seven local Workforce Investment Boards. Funding and jobs will be distributed statewide proportionate to each county's unemployment rate. The Oregon Employment Department will post job openings, confirm the eligibility of all job seekers and match job seekers to available jobs.

#### ***These Jobs Will Help Families in Crisis and Improve Our Communities***

Examples of potential projects:

- The Oregon Food Bank has identified the need and capacity for more than 1,000 jobs statewide providing food assistance to needy families.
- The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps can deploy an additional 300 or more youth on jobs ranging from restoration of wetlands to construction of trails in parks.
- The Oregon Departments of Forestry and Agriculture could use more than 200 additional workers to improve watersheds and remove brush from fire-prone forests and adjacent home sites.

#### ***The State's Unemployment Insurance Fund Can Support This Program***

There are sufficient reserves in the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to redirect at least \$90 million over the next six months to support this program. Legislation will be needed to redirect these funds on a one-time basis. Doing so is not likely to have an effect on employer-paid UI tax rates in 2009 or 2010.

***For more information: [www.worksourceoregon.org](http://www.worksourceoregon.org)***