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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL  
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

OK FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: April 23, 2010

SUBJECT: TDHCA to Expand WAP Sub-recipients and Texas March Unemployment Rate

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Dunnam", written over a horizontal line.

**Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Announces the Release of a Request for Applications to Expand ARRA's Weatherization Assistance Program**

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs announces the release of a Request for Applications (RFA) for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Weatherization Assistance Program. The RFA is seeking to expand the Department's existing weatherization sub-recipient network for the purposes of efficiently expending ARRA WAP funds.

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded the WAP for Texas at a level of \$326,975,732. These funds have been allocated by the Department to an existing network of providers. The Department is accepting applications for additional statewide, regional or local providers to serve as an overlay to the Department's existing ARRA WAP Subrecipient network. Through this RFA, the Department is seeking one or more entities to perform DOE WAP-compliant weatherization activities.

As provided in DOE regulations, only units of government and non-profit organizations are eligible to be sub-recipients of ARRA WAP funds. The Request for Applications is posted on the ARRA WAP webpage of the Department: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/recovery/detail-wap.htm>.

An Application Workshop will be held on Friday, May 7, 2010, in Austin, Texas. Attendance at the workshop is mandatory to be eligible to apply under the RFA and registration for the workshop is required. The registration form for the Workshop can be found at: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/recovery/detail-wap.htm>.

## **March Texas Unemployment Rate Holds Steady at 8.2%**

The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March remained unchanged at 8.2 percent for the fifth consecutive month, and continues to trend well below the March U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent. At more than 12.1 million workers, the Texas Civilian Labor Force grew by nearly 29,000 workers in March.

Texas has gained a total of 32,500 jobs over the past six months. Leisure and Hospitality added 10,300 jobs in March for the largest job gain among all the major industries. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 8,500 positions in March. Education and Health Services employment grew by 6,000 jobs in March for a total of 56,300 jobs added over the year. In the Goods Producing sector, employment in Mining and Logging increased by 6,100 jobs in March, and the Manufacturing industry added 2,100 jobs.

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 5.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Midland MSA with 5.7 percent, and third lowest was the Lubbock MSA and College Station-Bryan MSA, each at 5.9 percent.