

Membership Matters

Quarterly News from The 501 Alliance

March 2009

President Signs Economic Stimulus Legislation

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law on February 17, 2009. The historic \$787 billion piece of legislation contains a number of unemployment insurance (UI) provisions aimed at not only increasing benefits but increasing the number of benefit-eligible workers.

What You Need to Know:

Important UI provisions contained in the newly enacted bill are as follows:

- 1. Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Extension** - provides for continuation of the EUC program initially implemented in July 2008 and then extended in November 2008. This latest extension continues EUC through December 31, 2009. The EUC program continues to be 100% federally funded, meaning there is no cost to reimbursing or tax contributing employers.
- 2. UI Benefits Increase** - provides for an additional \$25 to be added to a person's weekly unemployment benefit amount through 2009. Employers will bear no costs for this provision, as these additional benefits will be 100% funded from federal general revenue.
- 3. UI Modernization** – makes one-time funding available to states as incentive to implement reforms to expand benefit eligibility to persons not typically covered. States will get a portion of \$7 billion, if they have enacted or will enact an “alternate base period” – the earnings period used to establish a UI claim - as well as two of four other benefit expansions: 1) part-time worker eligibility; 2) compelling family reason quit eligibility; 3) benefits for dislocated workers in approved training; and 4) dependent allowances. The incentive funding is meant to cover states' administrative costs associated with the expansions. Each state will need to determine whether or not employers will be charged for benefits paid under the new provisions.

What You Can Expect

The U.S. Department of Labor is currently developing guidance for the states, relative to the economic recovery package. Business groups have voiced concerns that ARRA provisions significantly alter some fundamental elements of the unemployment insurance program, but it will ultimately be up to individual state legislatures and UI agencies to decide how the changes will be carried out and to what extent employers may see increased unemployment costs.

We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

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Seeking Nominations for the Board of Directors

We currently have a vacancy on our board and we are seeking nominations from interested candidates. To qualify, the individual must be employed by one of our members or be a director on their board. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to meet and work with his or her peers in the nonprofit community.

As a director, you'll be able to provide input and use your expertise in decisions that impact our members. The board meets four times a year in February, May, August and November in Lansing. Each director also participates on at least one committee that provides recommendations to the entire board. The committees include Finance, Marketing, Membership, Nominating, Rate and Scholarship. These committees typically meet from one to four times a year via telephone conference call.

Attached is a nomination form that can be completed or distributed to interested candidates. This form needs to be returned to us by Wednesday, April 15, 2009, with the candidate's resume. The Nominating Committee will review the qualifications of all of the candidates and provide a recommendation to the board at their next meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Administrator at 800-968-9675.

Mark Your Calendar for the Next Annual Meeting

All member agencies are invited to attend the annual meeting of The 501 Alliance to be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday, May 15, 2009. The meeting will be held at the University Club of Michigan State University in Lansing. A complimentary lunch will also be provided immediately following the meeting. Directions to the venue will be included in the annual report that will be mailed in late April.

Topics of discussion and events include financial and claim reports for 2008, results from the annual audit and the election of board members and officers. In addition, the Harry and Shirley Klein Legal Scholarship winner will be announced and introduced to the membership. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the Board of Directors and to network with your peers from across the state.

Complete Your Contribution Report on the Web

Did you know that you can get a copy of a quarterly or amended contribution report through our website? We're also updating the reports so you can complete them right from your computer before downloading and printing. Simply go to 501alliance.org, click on the words "Contribution Reports" at the top of the page and print the report you need. Of course, you can still always call us if you would like a copy of either report e-mailed or faxed to you.



Board of Directors **Nomination Form**

Please print the requested information. Once completed, return this form to The 501 Alliance at the address provided below **by Wednesday, April 15, 2009 (attn: Administrator), with a copy of your resume**. All nominees must be residents of the state of Michigan.

Nominee: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) _____

Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Company Phone #: _____

Company County: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Additional Comments: _____

Director expectations:

1. Attend four meetings per year in Lansing that last approximately two hours each.
2. Participate on at least one committee that reviews information, offers input and provides recommendations to the full board.
3. Participate on committee conference calls once per quarter.
4. Promote The 501 Alliance unemployment program and encourage other nonprofit organizations to become members by providing contact information to the Administrator.