



# P R E S S R E L E A S E

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 13, 2009

## ***SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED***

In the midst of the gloomy economic news of recent months, GRADD is excited to announce a ray of hope for communities in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties.

Through a \$600,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (economic stimulus) allocation, GRADD is expanding its workforce development offerings to include a Summer Works youth employment initiative. This program will place approximately 170 individuals between the ages of 16 and 24, who meet eligibility guidelines, with public and private employers across the region. Summer Works aims to provide youth with invaluable work experience, while also stimulating the area economy.

The number of slots per county is based upon population and poverty level. The distribution is as follows: Daviess County – 41, Hancock County – 15, Henderson County – 29, McLean County – 18, Ohio County – 26, Union County – 25, and Webster County – 16.

The focus will be upon the neediest youth, including out-of-school youth and those most at risk of dropping out, youth in and aging out of foster care, juvenile offenders and those at risk of court involvement, homeless and runaway youth, children of incarcerated parents, migrant youth, Native American youth, and youth with disabilities.

To ensure a quality work experience, placements will be made based upon the occupational interest and goals of the individual. When possible, work experiences in “green” industries will be incorporated, along with registered apprenticeships. Program participants will earn \$7.25 per hour for full-time temporary work, beginning in mid-May or upon completion of their school year.

Employers throughout the seven-county region will be recruited to serve as worksites for the summer and will be responsible for overall supervision. However, GRADD will serve as the “employer of record,” paying all wages and providing workers compensation.

Local agencies and businesses interested in hosting summer youth workers should contact Jodi Rafferty at 1-800-290-4433. Individuals wishing to enroll in the program should also contact Rafferty, or fill out an application at their local One-Stop Career Center:

Owensboro Area Career Center  
121 East 2nd Street  
Owensboro, KY

Hancock County Career Center  
1605 US Hwy 60 West  
Hawesville, KY

Henderson Career Center  
212 North Water Street  
Henderson, KY

McLean County Career Center  
200 Hwy 81 North  
Calhoun, KY

Ohio County Career Center  
103 East Washington Street  
Hartford, KY

Paul Herron Technology Center  
4500 US Hwy 60 West  
Morganfield, KY

Webster County High School  
YES Youth Service Center  
1922 US Hwy 41A South  
Dixon, KY

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*The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of community and economic development, employment and training, social services, and transportation. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.*

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