



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

YPIC

Issue 6  
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## CAREER EXPO / JOB FAIR

The Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC) hosted a Career Expo on September 17 to prepare job seekers for a job fair scheduled for October 6th. 374 jobs seekers attended the Career Expo and there were 42 agencies to assist job seekers with services.



The objective of the Career Expo was to enhance the skills of the job seeker and make them more marketable to employers. Workshops included: Demystifying the federal job application process, Resumes that get results, Interviewing: do's and don'ts, The effective way to job hunt, Dress for Success, Making ends meet in hard times, and Foreclosure: is it too late? (A workshop on how to save homes in foreclosure or walk away gracefully).

Obdulia, a recently separated mother of two, said her husband never allowed her to work outside of the home and now she needs to support herself and her children. She thought the Career Expo taught her skills she did not have. Obdulia has never interviewed for a job and after setting through two mock interviews, she hopes she won't be so nervous when she gets her first interview; she feels she will know what to expect. Obdulia said she is attending computer classes at Goodwill of Central Arizona and will complete her classes at the end of October. Once she completes the classes she hopes to get a clerical job. Obdulia's goal is to work in a bank as a customer service representative or a teller.

Diana, Obdulia's 19 year old daughter said she already has a job but would like something better for herself. Diana said, "I would also like to be able to help my mother with the other kids still at home. I need a better job with more responsi-

bility and the opportunity for a career in a field that I will enjoy. I don't think I'm in that job now." Diana said she is taking something away from the Career Expo, "I need to revise my resume. I don't think it reflects the skills I have." After the interview, both women were seen at the YPIC booth inquiring about services.

YPIC will host the job fair on October 6, 2009. YPIC is asking that employers who are ready to hire and have current vacancies to participate. Interview rooms are being provided, hoping that employers will interview and hire job seekers that day .



## ENGLISH FOR THE WORKPLACE

YPIC has been working with Arizona Western College and other community agencies to develop and deliver English for the Workplace classes. The classes will be provided in Somerton, AZ, beginning September 29. Sixteen Spanish language speakers will be immersed in a fast paced English learning program to be pro-

vided by Arizona Western College, for 12 weeks at Somerton Middle School.

The goal of the program is to allow completers to gain listening and speaking English skills that are relevant to the workplace and will lend to opportunities for employability.

The participants will also receive training in Microsoft Office. YPIC provided outreach to and collaborated with faith-based and community organizations in South Yuma County to recruit the applicants needed for this program.

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### Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:

Youth:	Spent \$1,782,203
	Received \$2,233,610
Adult:	Spent \$342,236
	Received \$965,357
Dislocated Workers:	Spent \$119,909
	Received \$1,193,971
Rapid Response	Spent \$20,187
	Received \$143,277

## GRANTS, GRANTS & MORE GRANTS

YPIC has been busy writing grants to increase funding for the influx of clients due to high unemployment rates. If the grants are awarded, YPIC will leverage the grant funding with stimulus dollars to increase the programs and support services available to clients.

YPIC is involved in a collaboration of four southern Arizona counties that border Mexico that are applying for a State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grant. The grant is funded through ARRA and the purpose of the grant is to teach workers the skills required in emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. These efforts

will lead program participants to job placement while leveraging other ARRA investments intended to create jobs and promote economic growth.

This group above is also submitting a proposal for an ARRA Health Care Grant. The purpose of the grant is to teach workers the necessary skills for, and help them pursue careers in the health care industry. The grant will focus on four health care occupational categories: nursing, allied health, long-term care and health information technology. If this grant is received, each county will leverage the grant funds with other ARRA investments intended to create jobs

and promote economic growth.

YPIC was also notified that they were awarded an ARRA System Building Funds grant on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This grant will be used for a Workforce Economic Development Summit, Phase II. YPIC will meet with community and business leaders and economic development to map out future needs of the workforce in Yuma County. In 2005 YPIC had held similar meetings and the outcomes were very successful. However due to the recession, YPIC determined it was imperative to hold similar meetings to update workforce information.

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2738

customers in August 2009, up from 2,375 in July 2009.

- 271 indicated they were dislocated workers
- 76 indicated they were Veterans
- 60 indicated they were Migrant workers

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN!

John is 56 years old, married for 31 years, worked as a seasonal farm worker for 27 years, sold cars for 4 years and is now unemployed and looking for a job.

John was referred to YPIC by a friend and is now looking forward to earning his GED. John said he has been out applying for jobs, but every application asked for his education background and it was embarrassing to admit he had not completed high school. John decided since there wasn't much hope of getting a job on his own, maybe it was time to ask for help and complete his education.

John is attending his 2nd day of Life Skills class and is developing the first resume he has ever had. John said, "I'm learning so many new things here at YPIC. I've learned to write a resume and cover letter today and I think we are going to learn to interview this afternoon. I can't wait to see what I will learn tomorrow.

This is probably stuff I should have known all of my life, but I guess it is never too late to learn."

My first job was working in the fields of Salinas, CA and I stayed in the industry for 27 years. As my children got older, my wife and I wanted a better life for them so we left the violence of California and moved to Yuma. We knew we could find similar work here and our parents were nearby in southern California. One summer while I was laid-off, I met a man who sold cars and he told me I should try it because I would be able to work year-round. So I gave it a try and really liked it, however due to the bad economy I was laid off in December 2008.

Since December I've been looking for work, but just couldn't find anything. I don't know if it was due to my lack of education or just because too many people were competing for too few

jobs. So after talking with a friend who earned his GED through YPIC, I decided it was ok for me to get my education taken care of. "

"Once I complete my GED I think it would be good to have some basic computer skills. I've noticed almost every job ad requires basic computer skills and I have never used a computer. I might also consider getting my CDL (commercial driver's license) because I could probably get a job with a produce company driving a truck since I know so much about produce. I think there are still lots of options for me; I need to work for at least another 10 years."

"I have two sons at home and one never completed his education. I'm going to suggest he come to YPIC also; maybe we could work on our GED's together."

*"I guess it's never too late to learn. Maybe my son and I could work on our GED's together."*

## YPIC

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**Yuma Private Industry Council**  
opening doors between job seekers and employers

**We're on the  
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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator or the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

**Since April 1, 2009, 103 jobs have been created and 410 jobs have been saved with ARRA funds. Jobs were saved through the SMART Training (Strategies Mandatory at Recessionary Times), provided by the Yuma Chamber of Commerce and Yuma Private Industry Council staff.**

## Summary of Activities & Upcoming Events

Federal Job Training workshops are being offered on a weekly basis to assist interested clients in applying for federal jobs using the RE-SUMIX program.

YPIC's Youth Services has been selected to be part of the 2009 NAWDP Youth Symposium in Chicago in December. YPIC will present – Creating Innovative, Collaborative Projects Using ARRA and WIA Funding.

YPIC issued an RFP for adult and dislocated workers programs, seeking new training providers to assist with the increase of clients. Five agencies responded.

A Financial Services mini-workshop has been incorporated into Life Skills training, which is attended by every client enrolled in WIA/ARRA. Every client who receives support services is also required to work with Financial Services to create a budget. YPIC has a full-time financial planner on

staff to assist all WIA/ARRA clients.

10 ARRA clients began truck driver training at Arizona Western College in coordination with California Career School on 8/31 and will complete training 10/09/09 – all have pre-employment letters, hiring contingent upon earning the Commercial Drivers License

An article on YPIC's Summer Youth Green Demonstration Project was published in Teacher Magazine on August 12, 2009. To read more, please go to [http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/08/12/arizgreenbuilding\\_ap.html?tkn=NORF5FaRdBI88KyjsddEWWhIPL86XnGlrqoM](http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/08/12/arizgreenbuilding_ap.html?tkn=NORF5FaRdBI88KyjsddEWWhIPL86XnGlrqoM)

The Yuma Sun Business Direct published an article: YPIC expands services to help dislocated workers, in September 2009. To read more, please go to <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/ypic-1632-inyumaliving-opened->

[dislocated.html](#)

4 YPIC staff attended the California Workforce Association's Meeting of the Minds in Monterey conference in September.

To increase awareness of programs available to the community, YPIC is using Spanish media. For example: San Luis, AZ newspaper, Yuma Express (a shopper for non-profits with 30,00 published weekly), Spanish Christian Radio and City of Yuma public TV channels. Outreach staff is also attending public and civic organization meetings.

16 hours of Study Skills training is being required for all clients enrolled in training that requires any classroom time.

69 private sector & 4 federal resumes were written in August.



**9 of the 10 ARRA clients enrolled in truck driving training.**