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Date: 12/5/2014 1:18:04 PM
Subject: ED LS: Businesses in SC may receive reimbursements of up to 90% of wages when hiring long term unemployed

SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

December 2, 2014

Increased Financial Resources Available to S.C. Businesses for Hiring, Training Long-term Unemployed COLUMBIA—S.C. businesses now will be able to receive reimbursements of up to 90 percent of wages when they hire and train someone considered long-term unemployed.

The SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) announced it received approval to offer On- the-Job- Training (OJT) reimbursements on a sliding scale based on how long the new hire was unemployed. Under a federal Workforce Investment Act waiver from the Department of Labor, Palmetto State employers will be eligible to receive the following amounts of wage reimbursements during new hire training periods.

- ☐ Up to 50 percent for someone who has been unemployed less than 16 weeks.
- ☐ Up to 75 percent for someone who has been unemployed 16 to 27 weeks.
- ☐ Up to 90 percent for someone who has been unemployed for 28 weeks or more.

Previous guidelines allowed up to 50 percent wage reimbursements for OJT. The expanded resources will be available to businesses statewide through June 2016.

"This opportunity is a win-win for our state's businesses and job seekers," said DEW Executive Director Cheryl M. Stanton. "DEW and our local workforce partners are able to provide additional flexibility that will boost business engagement in hiring the long-term unemployed, increase job seeker placement and ultimately advance our overall workforce."

Taking advantage of OJT and this resource helps businesses by:

- ☐ Reducing the employers' costs during the recruitment and hiring process;
- ☐ Providing compensation for time spent training customized skill sets;
- ☐ Tapping into a diverse population of talent; and
- ☐ Promoting community-minded values through hiring locally.

To learn more about OJT opportunities available for your business, contact Michael Buchman, DEW's director of economic development, at mbuchman@dew.sc.gov.

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