

## Rep. Danny K. Davis Announces \$3M On-the-Job Training Grant for Illinois

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Congressman Danny K. Davis today announced that the Department of Labor has awarded Illinois an \$3,248,780 On-the-Job Training National Emergency Grant. The grant is Illinois' share of \$75 million in grants for the nation as a whole. The May unemployment rate in Illinois (10.8%) remains a full percentage point higher than the national average (9.7%). Unemployment in many inner city neighborhoods remain at depression levels. The grants will help dislocated workers experiencing prolonged unemployment to simultaneously secure employment and receive training that will allow them to upgrade their skills or acquire new skills for jobs in new and emerging industries by enabling employers to create training and job opportunities for these individuals.

OJT NEG participants will be given a chance to "earn and learn", which means they will develop applicable occupational skills while earning a paycheck. Employers participating in these OJT projects will receive partial reimbursement to offset the extraordinary cost of training these workers. The project will help workers become proficient in needed skills more quickly, which will serve to encourage employers to hire workers sooner than perhaps initially planned; facilitating the private sector hiring of well-qualified individuals to contribute to employers' bottom line and spur economic recovery.

Davis stated, "Given the continued fragile state of the economy, and the desperate situation of so many of our people, we must continue and redouble our efforts to put our people back to work. More than anything else jobs are the key to putting our economic system on a solid basis. This grant is another step in what must be an on-going process."