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**HRA Hosts 120 New York City Businesses and 4,500 Potential Employees at the 7th Annual Job Fair**

*Providing Real Opportunities for Work-Ready New Yorkers on Cash Assistance is Part of City's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan*

**New York** – The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) today hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Job Fair bringing together 120 New York City businesses with 4,500 work-ready participants from HRA's Back to Work and WeCARE programs. Employers met with candidates who are ready and prepared to go to work, to fill more than 2,500 jobs. The Job Fair took place at the Jacob K. Javits Center. Commissioner Doar, Executive Deputy Commissioner Seth Diamond and Employment Services Executive Director Ray Singleton were in attendance.

“HRA strives to match the needs of employers with qualified employees, and provide real networking opportunities such as job fairs,” said HRA Commissioner Doar. “Helping welfare recipients gain employment is our number one priority and we do that by maintaining our strong partnerships with New York City employers.”

The Back to Work program provides job readiness training, placement services and vocational training to applicants and recipients of cash assistance. These activities, shaped according to the background and skills of each individual, include short-term job search, vocational training, work experience or basic education. The Wellness, Comprehensive Assessment Rehabilitation and Employment (WeCARE) program is a unique initiative that addresses the needs of cash assistance clients with medical and/or mental health barriers to employment by providing customized assistance and services to help clients achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency.

HRA's Employer Services division designed this year's Job Fair with a sector-based approach to job development, which identifies, prepares and trains job seekers for employment in high-growth industries such as home health care, security, retail, transportation, food services and tourism. Among the companies in attendance at the Job Fair were: Krasdale Foods; Marshalls; JPMorgan Chase; Columbia University; FedEx; Port Authority; JC Penney; Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Salvation Army; D'Agostino Supermarkets; Allied Barton Security Services; VIP Health Care Services; and Canon Business Solutions.

Since Mayor Bloomberg took office, there have been 600,367 job placements of people on cash assistance. So far in 2009, there have been 22,255 job placements, keeping pace with placements during the same quarter for the past three years.

The City's *Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan* is a comprehensive strategy to bring New York City through the current economic downturn as fast as possible. It focuses on three major areas: creating jobs for New Yorkers today, implementing a long-term vision for growing the city's economy, and building affordable, attractive neighborhoods in every borough. Taken together, the initiatives that the City has launched to achieve these goals will generate thousands of jobs and put New York City on a path to economic recovery and growth. To learn more about the plan, visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov). Recently, the City has announced:

- ◆ The “Nine in ’09” campaign to promote economic activity in diverse neighborhoods.
- ◆ Center for Economic Opportunity placed more than 4,000 low-income New Yorkers in jobs.
- ◆ Stimulus-funded community development projects that will strengthen neighborhoods.
- ◆ Stimulus-funded Housing Authority projects that will create jobs for 3,255 New Yorkers.
- ◆ The start of construction of 103 units of affordable housing in Brownsville.
- ◆ A plan to protect area character and expand commercial opportunities in Sunset Park.
- ◆ The opening of Home Depot in the South Bronx creating 200 new permanent jobs.
- ◆ Legislation that will green buildings and create 19,000 construction jobs.
- ◆ The latest round of training funds to help small businesses train their employees.
- ◆ The final tally of 1,673 additional jobs created at the new Yankee Stadium.
- ◆ The placement of 50 laid-off New Yorkers into positions at entrepreneurial companies.
- ◆ New York City achieved a record 5,000 job placements through the first quarter of 2009.
- ◆ Help for a beer distributor to create 55 permanent and 30 construction jobs in the Bronx.
- ◆ Green projects at the Brooklyn Navy Yard are creating more than 1,700 permanent jobs.
- ◆ Comprehensive initiatives to support the nonprofit sector and its 490,000 jobs.
- ◆ Federal stimulus transportation projects that will create or preserve 32,000 jobs.
- ◆ New automated water meter readers that could help businesses retain or create 550 jobs.
- ◆ New programs to provide training and resources for City's future entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Steps the City is taking to help small businesses adapt to conditions and avoid layoffs.

- ◆ More than 50,000 New Yorkers claimed the City's Child Care Tax Credit in its first year.
- ◆ 11 new initiatives to support the financial services sector and promote entrepreneurship.
- ◆ A plan for Coney Island that will create 6,000 permanent and 25,000 construction jobs.
- ◆ A plan to create 400,000 jobs over the next six years in the 2009 State of the City speech.

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