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NEWS RELEASE

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Picente: \$1.18 Million in Recovery Act Funds Will Provide Training to Oneida County Residents

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., today announced that Oneida County's Office of Workforce Development will be receiving \$1.18 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund training for Oneida County residents.

"Getting people to work is the mission of our Office of Workforce Development and it is also the goal of the federal stimulus package," Picente said. "Through the Working Solutions offices in Utica and Rome, as well as new programs we will be creating in the coming weeks, we expect to serve hundreds of area residents who need training. Some training will prepare residents to take advantage of job openings that emerge from the projects funded by the stimulus package; other training will be more long-term to help laid-off workers and young adults develop skills that will help them be ready for an economic recovery."

Oneida County Director of Workforce Development David Mathis said that unemployed Oneida County residents should visit the Working Solutions offices in Utica, at the State Office Building, or in Rome, at 153 Brooks Road, to learn about details regarding programs, services and eligibility. He noted that Oneida County's plans for the Recovery Act funds it will receive remain tentative pending the official regulations from the U.S. Department of Labor and New York State Department of Labor. Mathis said that information is expected by the end of the month, and that Oneida County will be able to move ahead with its programs beginning in April.

"We have been working for the past few weeks with our local employers, training providers and community partners to identify opportunities that will help us to provide training that helps young people get the skills they need to find good jobs. We will also be working with employers and training providers to help companies and their employed workers upgrade skills so that our Oneida County employers can remain competitive in these very difficult times," Mathis said.

Mathis said that depending upon the final costs of training programs as they are developed, Workforce Development is projecting that roughly 500 people in Oneida County will be impacted by the Recovery Act funding.