



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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MARION PARTNERSHIP TO PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK SOON

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 20, 2009) – Marion County Commissioners want to help Marion County citizens find jobs and address Marion's 13.3 percent unemployment rate. That's why commissioners unanimously approved a plan today to partner with Workforce Connection and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). As part of a subsidized employment plan, Workforce Connection will hire 26 temporary employees to work on various Marion County projects.

As part of the program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the DCF will provide 80 percent of the total cost of employment to Workforce Connection. Marion County will pay the remaining 20 percent, or \$95,000. That means Marion County will receive labor at 20-cents on the dollar.

While the 26 temporary employees will work on Marion County projects, they are Workforce Connection employees. That means Workforce Connection is responsible for the employees' workers' compensation and taxes. The agency is also responsible for hiring and paying the employees.

Of the 26 positions, nine will report to the Parks and Recreation Department whereas the remaining 17 will work on various Facilities Management projects. Some of the positions include parks and natural resources specialists and parks designers as well as painters, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and general technicians among others.

These individuals will work on various Marion County projects, which were previously budgeted. For example, the parks and natural resources specialist will assist the Parks and Recreation Department with maintaining the parks' natural resources, such as fire lines, prescribed burning and water regulatory zones. Facilities workers will assist with maintenance and custodial services at the Judicial Center as well as renovation of the Silver Springs Library and Fire Rescue Logistics building among other projects. The positions are temporary because the federal funding is expected to expire in September 2010.

Marion County's \$95,000 contribution will come from the Reserve for Contingencies budget. The next step includes Marion County entering into an official partnership agreement with Workforce Connection and the DCF. That will occur at an upcoming board meeting.

Workforce Connection could start the hiring process for these temporary positions in about a month. To qualify, candidates must already be registered with Workforce Connection. For more information, citizens should contact Workforce Connection at (352) 840-5700 or www.clmworkforce.com.

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