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Encourages More Illinois Residents, Employers To Participate By Visiting PutIllinoistoWork.Illinois.gov

PEORIA – May 15, 2010. Governor Pat Quinn today visited the Peoria YWCA to announce that 577 employers across the state have agreed to hire more than 3,886 workers through the Put Illinois to Work (PIW) employment program. Peoria's YWCA has signed on to participate in the anti-poverty program that is expected to create more than 15,000 jobs statewide.

"Put Illinois to Work will create more than 15,000 good-paying jobs in our state," said Governor Quinn. "I applaud the hundreds of Illinois employers that have signed on to this program, and I encourage businesses and residents across the state to visit PutIllinoistoWork.Illinois.gov and fill out an application."

Through Put Illinois to Work, eligible Illinois residents will be placed in subsidized employment positions with participating worksites for up to six months, learning valuable skills and supporting their families. The program is expected to create more than 15,000 jobs statewide and to help stimulate Illinois' ailing economy. Put Illinois to Work will develop a healthy state workforce by providing meaningful work experiences for participants.

Private, public and non-profit businesses are encouraged to participate in Put Illinois to Work. Eligible participants are matched to subsidized employment opportunities with these worksites. The hope is that when the program concludes, many employers will permanently hire the workers they trained.

Put Illinois to Work is a collaborative effort of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and Heartland Human Care Services (HHCS). Funding is provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Eligible worksites and participants must meet program criteria and agree to adhere to specific programmatic requirements. Participants must be age 18-21, or 18 and older and the parent (custodial or non-custodial) of a minor child. All participants must have a household income

below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level ($2,428 per month for a family of two) and be legally present and authorized to work.

The Peoria YWCA serves around 150 children each day in their child care program and 100 children in health promotions activities. They house an average of 50 children each night either in the emergency shelter, transitional housing or permanent supportive housing. The YWCA also provides services to more than 10,000 different individuals annually and provides space to a local high school for their women's sports and junior varsity athletic programs.

For eligibility criteria and additional information on Put Illinois to Work, visit PutIllinoistoWork.Illinois.gov .

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