



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Good jobs for everyone.

### DOL News Brief

September 17, 2009

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#### Plight of Migrant Children in USA



Yesterday, Secretary Solis moderated a discussion as panelists reacted to a trailer for the upcoming documentary, *The Harvest*, which follows the lives of child migrant

workers through the 2009 harvest. Delores Huerta (UFW), Sylvia Aldana (former child migrant worker), David Strauss (AFOP), documentary filmmaker Robin Romano, and DOL Wage & Hour investigator Mark Lara provided personal stories and professional insight into efforts to protect children in agriculture. Prior to the panel, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard spoke about the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, or CARE act, which she recently introduced. This event was one of several the DOL is hosting in observance of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#).

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [View the Video](#)

#### What are the PPI and CPI?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses the Producer Price Index (PPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to measure facets of inflation. The PPI measures average change in selling prices received by producers for their goods, or output. CPI measures the average change in prices of a representative group of goods and services (the market basket) purchased by the typical urban household. By examining the PPI and CPI and their underlying indices, BLS is able to gauge the overall increase in prices for both companies and consumers as well as the source of the increase.

- [Read this month's PPI News Release](#)
- [Read this month's CPI News Release](#)

#### VETS 9/11 Remembrance

Secretary Solis joined Reps. Dina Titus and Shelley Berkley in Las Vegas to mark the anniversary of 9/11 by visiting the U.S. VETS Program, a U.S. DOL-funded facility. The event was part of President Obama's call to all Americans to volunteer. The Secretary and Congresswomen served lunch to homeless veterans, and personally thanked them for their service to our nation.

#### What's Hot

##### MSHA Grants

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has awarded \$500,000 in grant funds to six organizations that provide education and training within the mining industry. The Brookwood-Sago grants program was established through a provision in the Mine Improvement & New Emergency Response Act of 2006. Fiscal year 2009's funding will target the development and implementation of training and materials for mine emergency preparedness and haulage safety.

- [Read the News Release](#)

##### New Health Plans for GM Retirees Proposed

The Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration announced a proposed exemption that, if granted, would allow the General Motors Co. to transfer company securities (including common stock, preferred stock and a \$2.5 billion promissory note) to a health plan established for GM's retirees. The plan will cover approximately 700,000 retirees and dependents when it becomes effective on Dec. 31, 2009.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### Spotlight on States: Michigan

##### DOL Has Paychecks for Cherry Blossom LLC Workers

Good news for former employees of Cherry Blossom LLC in Williamsburg, Mich., a cherry processing plant that closed its doors in June without paying employees for their work in the last weeks of the company's operations; DOL has your money! Cherry Blossom LLC violated section 15(a)(1), the "hot goods" provision, of the FLSA when cherries processed by these unpaid workers were shipped to an Indianapolis-based company for sale and distribution. Due to the investigation, the buyer agreed to pay \$38,700 in back wages owed to workers at the plant. Any individual employed at Cherry Blossom LLC when the company ceased operations should call 313-226-7448 to verify employment and to ensure their checks are mailed to the appropriate addresses.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### Around DOL:

##### Hispanic Heritage Month

This Tuesday kicked off National Hispanic Heritage Month! From September 15-October 15, DOL celebrates the culture and heritage of Hispanic Americans and recognizes their invaluable contributions to our nation and the world. Hispanic Heritage Month was first observed as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson and was later expanded to a 30-day period by President Reagan in 1988. September 15 was selected as the



- [View the Slideshow](#)

## Morales Stars in DOL PSA



Most people recognize Esai Morales as an actor, with roles in *La Bamba*, *Mi Familia*, *NYPD Blue*, *Jericho*, and dozens of other major TV and movie productions. But this

son of a union activist (his mother was an organizer with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union) is a labor activist in his own right, as well. And he is putting his talent to work for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Morales recently recorded a series of public service announcements in both English and Spanish, with strong messages about worker safety and wage-hour protections. The spots will run on TV and radio stations across the country beginning in the Fall.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

### ARRA Grant Application Deadlines

- [Pathways Out of Poverty](#)  
(SGA/DFA PY 08-19)  
Close: 9/29/2009
- [Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries](#)  
(SGA/DFA PY 09-01)  
Close: 10/5/2009
- [State Energy Sector Partnership \(SESP\) and Training Grants](#)  
(SGA/DFA PY-08-20)  
Close: 10/20/2009

### EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Workshops

- [September 23 — Fresno, CA](#)
- [September 24 — Avenel, NJ](#)

### OFCCP — ADA and Section 503 Seminar

- [September 18 — Richmond, VA](#)

### OFCCP Compliance Assistance Seminars

- [September 22 — Milwaukee, WI](#)
- [September 23 — Chicago, IL](#)
- [September 23 — Nashville, TN](#)

### OFCCP AAP Development & Preparing for Desk Audit

- [September 23 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [September 24 — Baltimore, MD](#)

### OFCCP Compliance Assistance Seminars (ARRA)

- [September 22 — Mountainside, NJ](#)

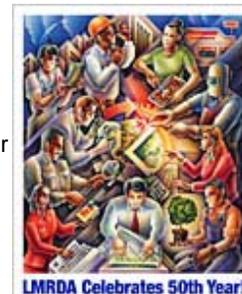
### OFCCP Compliance Assistance Seminars for Construction Contractors

commencement date to coincide with the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Department of Labor has a wide range of special events — guest speakers, art exhibitions, and a book discussion to name a few.

- [View the Calendar](#)

## LMRDA 50th Anniversary

The Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) celebrates its 50th anniversary this week. The LMRDA was enacted primarily to ensure basic standards of democracy and fiscal responsibility in labor organizations representing employees in private industry. It ensures free and fair union officer elections; provides a union member bill of rights; safeguards union funds and assets; and increases labor-management transparency. The Department's Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) administers and enforces most provisions of the LMRDA. Unions representing U.S. Postal Service employees became subject to the LMRDA with the passage of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.



## Recovery Highlights: \$11 Million for W.Va. UI Modernization

West Virginia qualified for more than \$11 million in Unemployment Insurance (UI) modernization incentive funds. The state qualified for a portion of its share of the funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by allowing workers to use their more recent earnings to qualify for benefits. "West Virginia recognizes the importance of providing an economic safety-net to workers who have entered the workforce recently and lost their jobs through no fault of their own," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read all UI Modernization News Releases](#)

## Opportunities are Open: HR in D.C.

Want a career that makes a difference in the lives of working families? The U.S. Department of Labor may be the place for you. Our Washington, D.C., Human Resources team seeks professionals with a passion for personnel recruitment and management. Explore the three HR opportunities listed below or view all the exciting and rewarding DOL positions at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/jobs.htm>.

1. Multiple Positions in Washington DC Metro Area, DC  
[Program Assistant \(OA\) — Grade 7](#)  
DE-09-ESA-WH-145  
Close: 9/22/09
2. Position in Washington DC Metro Area, DC  
[Program Manager — Grade 15](#)  
DE-09-ETA-116  
Close: 9/24/2009
3. Position in Washington DC Metro Area, DC  
[Human Resources Specialist — Grade 14](#)  
MS-09-HRC-HRC-198  
Close: 9/28/2009

- [September 18 — Chicago, IL](#)
- [September 22 — Milwaukee, WI](#)
- [September 24 — Milwaukee, WI](#)
- [September 25 — Richmond, VA](#)

**OLMS Compliance Assistance Seminars**

- [September 18 — Salt Lake City, UT](#)
- [September 18 — Norfolk, VA](#)

**OSBP Employer Compliance Assistance Forum**

- [September 18 — Miami, FL](#)

**WHD Prevailing Wage Conferences**

- [September 22-24 — San Antonio, TX](#)
- [September 29-October 1 — Boston, MA](#)

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