

GOOD JOBS FOR EVERYONE



FACT SHEET
U.S. Department of Labor

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DOL'S FIRST YEAR

Good Jobs for Everyone means the Department of Labor is committed to protecting workers by improving working conditions; advancing opportunities for employment; protecting retirement and healthcare benefits; helping employers find workers and strengthening collective bargaining. A few DOL accomplishments to highlight:

Ensured Recovery Act Worked for Workers

- Invested more than \$44 billion in Recovery Act Funds including Unemployment Insurance Modernization, Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Trade Adjustment Assistant cases, COBRA cases and National Emergency Grants many of which supported dislocated workers.
- Awarded a historic number of grants to Labor-Management Partnerships for training particularly in the green jobs sector. We announced the grant competition at an IBEW training facility highlighting the importance of union apprenticeship.
- Implemented strong Davis-Bacon provisions in the Recovery Act.
- Created more than 90,000 jobs through DOL-supported Recovery Act programs.

Back in the Enforcement Business

- Restored worker protection agencies staffing to 2001 levels and hired 710 enforcement personnel in OSHA, WHD, OFCCP, MSHA and EBSA.
- Maintained and increased funding levels for enforcement in FY 2011 Budget with \$25 million for a new initiative on Misclassification to ensure workers are properly classified and restore protections for employees classified improperly.
- Recovered more than \$171 million in back wages for workers.
- Announced a comprehensive strategy to end new cases of black lung.
- Filed a record number of egregious cases and issued the highest fine in OSHA's history – \$87 million to British Petroleum – sending a strong message that we will not tolerate neglect of worker safety and health.
- Holding a major worker safety and health summit to address the concerns of vulnerable Latino workers in low wage, high hazard industries.
- Launching a multilingual “We Can Help” outreach campaign targeting worker populations and industries in which workers are reluctant to report violations and concerns.

Restoring Balance: Regulatory Action

- Strengthened protections for U.S. and foreign agricultural workers, with the final rule for the H2A program. The new rule increases job opportunities for U.S. workers, raises wages, strengthens labor protections for U.S. and foreign workers, and provides enhanced program integrity measures and enforcement by DOL.
- Preserved union members' access to meaningful financial information about their union while eliminating unnecessary paperwork, with a new final OLMS rule.
- Preserving and expanding retirement security, EBSA is completing new regulations this spring on 401k fee disclosure and transparency and issued an RFI on lifetime income streams.
- Enhancing transparency and requiring disclosure to workers of how their pay is computed, DOL will issue an NPRM on FLSA Recordkeeping this fall.
- Leveling the Playing Field: OLMS will issue an NPRM this fall on interpretation of the “advice exemption” under the LMRDA's consultant reporting requirements.
- Protecting worker safety: OSHA will publish a final rule on Cranes and Derricks this summer, hold hearings on combustible dust and proposed a revised Hazard Communications standard to improve the information workers get on toxic substances in the workplace.

DOL is also proud to be part of many pro-worker initiatives in the Obama Administration, such as:

- Working with the Vice President's Middle Class Task Force on drafting and implementing key Executive Orders that protect workers and promote economy and efficiency in government contracting such as: Project Labor Agreements Economy in Government Contracting, Notification of Employee Rights under Federal Labor Laws and Non displacement of Qualified Workers under Service Contracts
- Secretary Solis co-chairs the White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers. Task Force leadership and staff work closely with elected, community and labor leaders in auto states to identify concrete ways the federal government can support auto workers and communities, help create jobs by marshalling resources for those communities, break logjams and identify areas where federal resources or authorities are needed.