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**For Immediate Release**

**December 1, 2009**

**Collaboration to Assist Dislocated Workers Find Employment**

The Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce have joined a statewide initiative to assist dislocated workers find employment. The initiative, called Project HIRE (Hometown Investment in Regional Economies), is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and will help connect employers in targeted growth industries with current job openings to hire dislocated workers.

The state has allocated \$7 million for businesses to employ 1,200 to 2,000 eligible job seekers statewide on a first-come, first-served basis. Employers can receive up to a \$6,000 stipend per employee hired to assist with short-term training or certification for an eligible job seeker to meet an employer’s hiring conditions. There is no cost to businesses to participate while funding is available. The employer may also be eligible for tax credits. Dislocated workers employed through Project HIRE must remain employed with the business for a minimum of six months after training is completed with the employer.

“Thanks to this collaboration, employers will find people with the skills they need,” said Montgomery County Commission President Dan Foley. “By bolstering pre-qualified job seekers’ existing skills with additional training, these candidates become more attractive to prospective employers, beyond what the job seeker could have accomplished on their own. It’s a win-win for everyone involved.”

Businesses interested in finding out more information should call the Project HIRE employer hotline at 225-6444.

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**About Montgomery County Department of Job & Family Services**

*Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services provides opportunities that help people realize their potential, achieve self-sufficiency and improve the quality of their life. The department offers a wide variety of services from protecting children and adults from abuse and neglect, child support enforcement, administering state and federal programs for people eligible for social services such as subsidized child care and food assistance, as well as workforce development services.*