

HRA Clients Meet with Employers at 2009 Job Fair

HRA's seventh bi-annual job fair drew over 2,500 public assistance clients ready to find work to the Jacob K. Javits Center on May 7th, 2008. 155 employers in fields ranging from security and culinary arts to sales, retail, public service and more were on hand to take resumes and meet with clients.

The job fair was an invitation only event – HRA invited clients with some previous experience who have demonstrated motivation to find work and reach their potential. Leading up to the fair, HRA also hosted meetings for prospective employers, explaining the benefits of hiring public assistance clients and the difference they can make in people's lives. Only employers with immediate job openings were recruited to attend. By narrowing the focus of the event to the clients and employers most driven to participate, HRA ensured that both parties got the most out of the job fair – clients had a chance to meet employers in need of qualified people and employers had a chance to meet motivated job-seekers ready to re-launch their careers.

Commissioner Robert Doar, Executive Deputy Commissioner of FIA Seth Diamond, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Employment Services Ray Singleton and Employment Services Chief of Staff Carl Day were on hand to observe the proceedings and talk with clients and employers. The general mood was one of excitement and optimism despite the economic crisis affecting the city and state. If this job fair was any indication, New Yorkers are ready and willing to rebuild the economy career by career.