

HRA Job Fair Matches Job-Ready Clients with Opportunities

More than 2,000 HRA clients met at the Jacob K. Javits Center on September 17 to apply for jobs in a variety of fields during HRA's Fall 2009 Job Fair. Employers committed to hiring HRA clients accepted resumes and interviewed applicants for over 1,000 positions.

As with earlier HRA job fairs, only clients singled out as motivated and job-ready were invited to attend. Besides cash assistance recipients in the Back-to-Work program, some food stamp clients and noncustodial parents (parents who pay child support and do not live with their children) participating in the Office of Child Support Enforcement's fatherhood programs were there looking for employment. Job seekers were given a list of the employers attending the fair so they could prepare for meetings and interviews in advance.

In addition to private and public employers, the job fair also featured recruiters for short-term training and employment programs, which give clients on-the-job training and temporary employment, and help them look for permanent work. Clients could choose from fields such as home health care, transportation, customer service, culinary arts and computer training. HRA has also been working with private and public partners to help clients move from entry-level jobs to more competitive and higher-paying jobs by providing more training and certification.

Commissioner Doar hosted a breakfast prior to the fair opening, where he thanked employers for collaborating with HRA and for their role in the local economy. "In New York City, by using a variety of means and broadening our economy, unemployment has risen at less than half the rate of the rest of the country," he said. "We are on track to place as many people in jobs as we did in 2008, about 80,000."

Commissioner Doar recognized retailer Century 21 with a special award for its support in working with HRA. Century 21 has hired 68 HRA job candidates so far this year, with three more pending in Manhattan and 35 in Brooklyn.