

## Murphy Statement on \$29 Million in Unemployment Benefits for Connecticut

Tuesday, 07 April 2009

Today, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that Connecticut will receive over \$29 million in unemployment insurance (UI) modernization incentive funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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NEW BRITAIN, CT - Today, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that Connecticut will receive over \$29 million in unemployment insurance (UI) modernization incentive funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Connecticut Department of Labor can use the funds to pay unemployment benefits or, if appropriated by the legislature, for administering its unemployment insurance program or delivering employment services to the 7.4% of Connecticut residents currently unemployed.

"This is great news for Connecticut. We are seeing staggering unemployment here in our state, and we aren't out of the woods yet. This federal unemployment assistance comes at the right time, to help families across Connecticut stay in their homes, put food on the table, find a job, and ride out this economic downturn," said Murphy.

The Recovery Act made a total of \$7 billion available in UI modernization incentive payments to states that include certain eligibility provisions in their UI programs. Each state can qualify for a share of those funds by showing that its law includes those provisions. To date, Connecticut, New Jersey and South Dakota each have been certified by the U.S. Labor Department to receive a share of the funds.

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