

Employment Woes Hitting Latinos Hard

Latinos are disproportionately represented among the workers and families who have been hardest hit by the nation's economic and employment woes. In October of 2001, 136,000 Hispanics joined the ranks of the unemployed, driving up the Latino unemployment rate to 7.2 percent, according to the Department of Labor.

Latino immigrant workers tend to work in industries that are especially vulnerable to layoffs, and they and their families are highly likely to fall through the gaps in the federal safety net.

States are also feeling the pressure, as the number of those out of work and out of options continues to grow. These workers need help to fall through the gaps in the federal safety net.

States are also feeling the pressure, as the number of those out of work and out of options continues to grow. These workers need help to buy basic food and provide health-care needs for their families as they look for new jobs.

But in Washington, Congress has entered a political stalemate over passing an economic-stimulus package. Both Republicans and Democrats have wrangled over how to respond to the U.S. recession.

Without any serious proposals to help workers, Republican leaders are forcing a compromise that would primarily help corporations profit. American workers

stand to get little or nothing.

And all the while the White House seem content to remain on the sidelines instead of exercising leadership.

Latinos, especially Hispanic immigrants, have made serious contributions to the nation's prosperity, both with their labor and their purchasing power.

Many of them now need a little help to keep their families fed and healthy until they find new jobs.

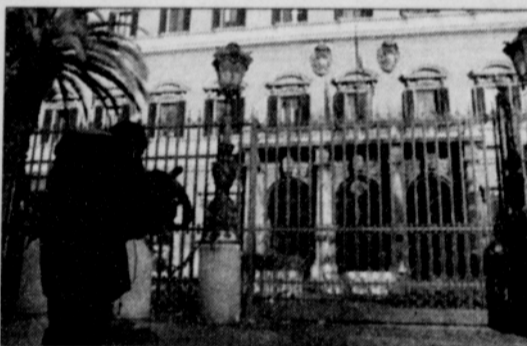
But far too many are ineligible for unemployment insurance, food stamps and health coverage, including Medicaid and other temporary health care for newly unemployed workers. Opening the doors of these programs to families looking for work should be paramount for lawmakers.

Congress and the White House need to push states to provide Medicaid coverage to all unemployed workers and to expand eligibility for unemployment insurance and food stamps. And any emergency assistance to states ought to prioritize serving those not eligible for federal services.

President Bush should take an active lead in Washington to break the impasse and fight for America's workers.

Raul Yzaguirre is president of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the nation's largest Hispanic civil-rights organization. He can be reached at pmproj@progressive.org.

Tunnel Near Embassy in Rome Studied



A cameraman films in front of the U.S. Embassy in Rome after investigators found holes in the walls of the utility tunnel near the embassy.

ROME (AP)—Security experts from the U.S. State Department will inspect a utility tunnel running alongside the U.S. Embassy here in connection with an Italian probe of a group of Moroccans suspected of planning a chemical attack, Embassy officials said Monday.

Italian authorities will join the U.S. experts in the inspection of the tunnel where a hole was discovered last week, an embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

The tunnel, which runs under Via Boncompagni, a street flanking the Embassy compound, contains electricity and telephone lines, U.S. officials said. Italian news reports had said the tunnel also contains gas lines, but Embassy officials said that was incorrect.

Eight Moroccans were picked up in a police raid last week that also turned up nine pounds of a cyanide-based compound, firecrackers and maps of Rome highlighting the U.S. Embassy and the capital's water supply. A ninth turned himself in over the weekend in southern Reggio Calabria.

Italian news reports have said that investigators believe a chemical attack on the Embassy's water

system was being plotted.

Italian news reports said the hole was not in the tunnel in mid-January, the last time authorized work was carried out, but Embassy officials said it hadn't been ruled out that the hole might have been there earlier but was simply not noticed.

In an initial appearance before a judge, the suspects denied being part of a terrorist group and said they didn't know how the chemical compound got into their apartment. The judge ordered that they continue to be held on charges of subversive association.

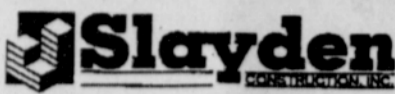
Potassium ferrocyanide is a compound that includes small quantities of cyanide, a deadly poison. Officials are trying to determine whether it could have been used to make an explosive or dangerous gas.

Luciano Caprino, an expert in pharmacology at Rome's La Sapienza University, said potassium ferrocyanide itself is not toxic. But he said if the compound is heated to about 930 degrees, it can emit highly toxic hydrocyanic acid.

"Depending on its density in a room, this gas could kill in a few minutes," he added.

Sub-Bids Requested

Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant
 Bid Date: March 5, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.



P. O. Box 625 Stayton, OR 97383
 (503) 769-1969 FAX: (503) 769-4525

We are an equal opportunity employer and request sub-bids from emerging small businesses and from women and minority enterprises.
 WA REG; SLAYDC156BZ

Sub-Bids Requested

Museum Place South

Bid Package #5

Structural Steel, Miscellaneous Iron, Open Web Joists,
 Metal Deck And Trash Chute.

Bid Date: March 18, 2002 - 2:00 pm

Plans & Specification available

At DJC Plan Center, Construction Data Westside, Oregon Contractor's
 Plan Center, OAME, HDC & HSWCC Main Office.

Or online @ www.bxwa.com



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Sub-Bids Requested

Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant
 Centralia, Washington

Bid Date: March 5, 2002 @ 10:00 AM

Kiewit Construction Company

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Renton, WA 98056

Phone: 425-255-8333

Fax: 425-255-9755

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Notice Of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met), Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, will be held in Room C of the Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The meeting will take place on the March 27, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comments from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after March 27 at 4012 S.E. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Bruce Harder
 Budget Officer

Advertisement For Bids

Holgate House Building Improvements
 Job NO. HH 15-01-01

Sealed bids will be received at the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP), 8910 N. Woolsey Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97203, until 2:00 p.m. Thursday March 21, 2002 for labor and materials for work at Holgate House a 5 story building at 4601 SE 39th Avenue Portland, Oregon. Shortly thereafter, bids will be opened and publicly read. No bidder may withdraw their bid after the hour set for opening until after the lapse of sixty (60) days from the bid opening.

The basic work consists of removal of existing and installation of new carpet, vinyl tile, and entrance lobby mailboxes, including installation of new handrails in the corridors. Work will be performed at all common areas on each floor of the apartment building.

Bid Documents are available at the HAP Office noted above. A \$50 deposit per set of bid documents is requested and are refundable when documents are returned within 10 days after bid opening.

Attendance of bidders is mandatory at a pre-bid tour of the project at Holgate House Apartments, 4601 SE 39th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202, at 10:00 a.m. Thursday February 28, 2002. Questions posed during the tour, not addressed in the documents, will be answered by addendum.

The Housing Authority of Portland may reject any bid not in compliance with the prescribed bidding procedures and requirements and may reject any or all bids and waive all informalities if, in the judgment of HAP, it is in the public interest to do so. Questions regarding this project should be directed to H. David Walter at 735-4210.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND

H. David Walter
 Assistant Director Public Housing

Advertisement For Bids

Sealed bids for the construction of the Pape Field Sports Lighting System will be received by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education at U of O Facilities Services Dept. Conference Room #2, 1295 Franklin Blvd. (physical address), 1276 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1276 (mailing address), until 4:00 PM PST, Thursday, March 21, 2002, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Undersigned or his designated representative.

Briefly, the work includes providing and installing a sports lighting system for the Pape Field Facility (three practice fields) at the intercollegiate Athletic Facility, University of Oregon. The work also includes upgrade of existing electrical service including installation of a 1000 kVA transformer (owner furnished), distribution panelboards and all branch circuit wiring and controls.

Bidding documents may be examined at the U O Facilities Services Dept., Eugene Builders Exchange, Eugene Daily Journal of Commerce Plan Center, and Construction Market Data, Portland; Construction Data Plan Center, Portland and Wilsonville offices, Oregon Contractors Exchange, Clackamas; Douglas County Plan Center, Roseburg; Medford Builders Exchange, Medford, Salem Builders Exchange, Salem; Dodge/Scan, Wilsonville; and Valley Plan Center, Kent, WA.

Prime bidders may obtain up to two sets and subcontractors one set of bidding documents at Balzhiser and Hubbard Engineers 975 Lincoln Street, Eugene, OR (541) 686-8478, upon receipt of a refundable deposit of \$100 each set, with a check or MO made payable to the University of Oregon. Deposits will be refunded for documents returned in "good condition" within ten days after the opening of bids. After that date the deposit checks will be deposited by UoO.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference and walk-through has been scheduled for 10:00 AM PST, Thursday, March 7, 2002 at the UO Intercollegiate Athletic Facility, Casanova Center, Director's Conference Room. A tour of the site will follow the conference.

All bidders must comply with ORS 279.348 - 279.365 relating to prevailing wage rates, and ORS 279.029 relating to resident of non-resident status. All bidders must be registered with the Construction Contractors Board, as required by ORS 701.035.

Bids will be received on a lump sum basis for all of the work. No bid will be considered unless fully completed in the manner provided in the Division B "Instruction to Bidders" upon the Bid Form provided and accompanied by bid security. Any and all bids may be rejected for good cause upon finding that it is in the public interest to do so.

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
 By: Daniel A. Williams, Vice President for Administration
 Eugene, Oregon

Worksystems INC.

worksystems inc. (WSI) is pleased to announce this open solicitation to select providers of high-quality employment and training services for at-risk youth ages 14-21 in the City of Portland, Multnomah, Washington and Tillamook Counties. Approximately \$1,400,000 in program funds are available based upon projected funding levels. Administrative fund amounts will be specified in the Request for Proposals. Services are to be provided July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. At its discretion, WSI may extend contracts for services through June 30, 2004.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on the WSI website at <http://www.worksystems.org/contractor/contractorinfo.htm> on March 11, 2002.

The mandatory Bidder's Conference will be held on March 18, 2002 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM at the Kaiser Ballroom, 3704 N. Interstate, Portland, OR. **Only those parties attending the mandatory Bidder's Conference will be eligible to compete for funding.**

All funding opportunities are available at <http://www.worksystems.org/contractor/contractorinfo.htm>. To be notified by email of funding opportunities, please email: lmickelson@worksystems.org and indicate that you wish to be added to the procurement notification list. If you have additional questions regarding procurement, please call 478-7300.

Sub-Bids Requested

YWCA - DOWNTOWN CENTER REMODEL
 Packages Bidding: Divisions 2 thru 14

Drawing available for review: February 26, 2002

Bids Due: March 14, 2002 - 1:00 PM

Pre-bid Walk-thru: March 4 & 5 - 1:00 PM

Plans & Specifications will be available at the DJC Plan Center, Construction Data Westside Plan Center, Oregon Contractor's Plan Center, OAME, HDC, & HSWCC Main Office

Plans can be purchased at subcontractors cost at Willamette Blue Print.

Contact the Document Control Dept. (503) 223-5011. Mandatory Bid forms will be available with Instructions to Bidders at the Pre-bid walk-thru or at HSWCC's office. Please contact Todd Duwe at (503) 220-0895 for a copy.



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