



Photo Courtesy of Aerotek

Federal Help With Health Insurance Premiums

People who lost jobs after August 31, 2008, may qualify.

The federal government will pay 65 percent of monthly health insurance premiums for nine months for certain laid off workers. Workers must have lost jobs after August 31, 2008 and before January 1, 2010.

Also, the worker's employer must remain in business and offer health insurance. That's because the federal subsidy applies to employees who are eligible to continue their employer health plan under federal COBRA law or Oregon's state continuation law.

The Oregon Insurance Division has details at: <http://insurance.oregon.gov/consumer/consumer-issues/federal-stimulus-info/federal-stimulus-info.html>

The information includes a consumer flyer employers or others can download for their offices. Or, call the Insurance Division at **503-947-7213** and ask for a flyer. Consumers or employers with questions about the premium assistance may call the division's consumer advocates at **1-888-877-4894**.



Making it happen.

The Right Tool for the Job

Use Pacific Power's Business Solutions Toolkit to Boost Your Bottom Line

In these challenging economic times, Pacific Power is working to keep costs down and deliver the best possible value for customers' energy dollars. To help business customers manage energy use and costs, the company is introducing its new Business Solutions Toolkit.

The online Toolkit provides customers with the resources and data they need to answer energy-related questions specific to their business. Toolkit sections include:

- **Tools you can Use** – Calculate costs to upgrade lighting, motors and more. Evaluate operating performance, benchmark with other businesses within an industry and identify recommended options.
- **Ask an Expert** – Get the answers quickly, and confidentially, from a dedicated team of engineers, technicians and researchers.
- **eLibrary** – Explore articles, links, tips and guides categorized by business segment as well as applicable technology or energy use that can help with buying decisions.

For additional information on service, energy efficiency, renewable energy, reliability and other topics, current and past issues of Pacific Power's energy connections newsletter are also part of the set of resources.

Visit www.pacificpower.net/toolkit for more information.

Staffing Companies Support Business Models During Economic Downturn

During economic uncertainty, companies typically cut back on spending by enforcing a hiring freeze. As a result, businesses struggle to complete projects and maintain their workload without the necessary staff — but this doesn't have to be the case. Local staffing firms, such as Aerotek, an international staffing provider, can be an integral partner to help companies fulfill their business goals via contract staffing services.



Staffing providers offer the flexibility to add staff to an organization while maintaining the bottom line. Regardless of the industry, contract staffing is an option that fits many business models.

Earlier this year, the national unemployment rate reached its highest level since December 1983, forcing companies to be creative when it comes to seeking solutions to staff short-term or time-sensitive solution projects with an anticipated end date.

Hiring an employee on a contractual basis offers the flexibility to add personnel for significantly less than it costs to hire an employee directly and to fulfill an immediate need for qualified employees while providing freedom to continue and/or end employment at any time.

Contract positions are commonly utilized when hiring for project-based work with definitive schedules or hiring for companies that experience seasonal peaks in their production. As projects develop or an increase in labor is required, staffing providers can provide qualified contract employees with an agreed upon start and end date. This alleviates having to conduct layoffs after the completion of a project or peak season as well as opens the door to potential future employment opportunities, such as converting the employee to a contract-to-hire position.

By taking advantage of various services offered by staffing firms, companies will save time and money spent on hiring. Staffing providers such as Aerotek, identify, screen and place candidates with a company and administer insurance, benefits and paychecks so internal resources are not overwhelmed with these tasks.

While staffing providers vary in how they handle employee-related costs, Aerotek specifically takes full responsibility for these costs including unemployment, workers' compensation, vacation and sick pay, benefits, 401(k) and more.

Call 888-237-6835 or visit www.aerotek.com. ♦