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### **WorkSource Announces Mobile Access Point Strategy**

Four teams will take services to remote sites throughout the region

(JACKSONVILLE, FL) – WorkSource announced today that it will use some of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to provide services through a network of Mobile Access Points throughout the six-county Northeast Florida region. WorkSource received over \$9 million over two years to provide re-employment and training services to unemployed individuals in Northeast Florida. WorkSource has expanded its presence beyond the walls of its career centers by deploying four vans with wireless enabled laptops to provide workshops, information on careers and training scholarships, and employment leads. The vans will be working in all six counties of Northeast Florida and targeting neighborhoods that need WorkSource services the most.

Designed for people who have challenges in getting to a local career center, the mobile access team rotates daily among churches, libraries and nonprofit organizations within the region. “Our career centers were sized to match our budget – and the smaller crowds we saw due to low unemployment over the past few years,” said Bruce Ferguson, CEO of WorkSource. “When the recession really hit, traffic in our centers jumped by 50%. We wanted to find a solution that allowed us to serve those people without investing in costly and permanent infrastructure.”

The Mobile Access Point schedule can be found by visiting [www.worksourcefl.com](http://www.worksourcefl.com) and clicking on “calendar.” The organization hopes to expand the list of access points over the next year. Currently, sites include the Jacksonville Housing Authority, Edward Waters College, the Jacksonville Urban League, Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), and churches and libraries in several counties.

WorkSource, operated by First Coast Workforce Development, Inc., is responsible for providing a trained workforce to the more than 16,000 employers in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. First Coast Workforce Development administers an annual budget of over \$14 million, and functions around several initiatives designed to connect job seekers in transition with training and employment and focus on economic development through workforce preparation. The organization plays a key role in attracting new business and helping current businesses expand in Northeast Florida. WorkSource also operates a Youth Council, which helps connect local youths with career information and opportunities.

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