

Hiring incentives help Part-Time Pros put people to work

by D. Ray Tuttle Published: May 25th, 2010



Michelle Tussey, a recruiter for Part Time Pros, works the phones to help clients find employment. (Photo by Rip Stell)

TULSA – A Tulsa-based talent acquisition firm specializing in part-time employment is taking advantage of stimulus money to put people back to work.

Part-Time Pros is helping restore some of the jobs lost in the economic recession, using cash from the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment, or HIRE, Act.

“At Part-Time Pros our mission is to be a key part of putting people back to work and this new program will provide another avenue for us to do that for the community,” said Carey Baker, co-owner of Part-Time Pros.

The staffing company recruits professionals seeking part-time employment and places them with companies that have part-time needs. The two-year-old company works with about 250 employers in Tulsa and has placed about 350 temporary workers since its launch in 2008.

Over the past three months, since the federal government incentive went into effect on Feb. 3, Part-Time has placed

about 80 applicants in jobs, Baker said. The employers all have access to the forms and about a fourth of those have returned the federal applications for the incentive.

“You hear about how tough the job market is and that so many people are unemployed, I was not sure what to expect,” Baker said. “It does not mean those others do not qualify, only that 20 have filled out the form.”

Otherwise, Baker said, “Response to the incentive has been good.”

Other personnel agencies contacted by *The Journal Record* have indicated they see some interest in filing for the incentive. The agencies aren’t sure about results until after the end of the second quarter.

One personnel agency, Jacobi Kelley Search, summed up the response by reporting increased activity placing candidates, but was not sure why, said Chris Jacobi, CEO.

“Our business has picked up dramatically in the last 60 to 90 days, but I do not know if it is related to the incentives or not,” Jacobi said.

President Barack Obama signed the \$17.5 billion legislation in early March. It includes tax incentives for businesses to hire unemployed workers, Baker said.

“Employers who hire unemployed workers for this year – after Feb. 3 but before Jan. 1 2011 – qualify for a 6.2-percent payroll tax incentive,” Baker said. “It exempts employers from their share of the Social Security payroll tax on wages.”

The act also offers a payroll tax exemption of the employer’s share of Social Security taxes on wages paid to these workers after March 18. There is an employer tax credit of up to \$1,000 per worker.

A newly hired employee must have been unemployed for 60 days prior to starting work, or worked fewer than 40 hours for someone else during the 60-day period.

Opportunity

Carey and her husband, Brett Baker, created Part-Time Pros in 2008.

Following the birth of her daughter, Carey Baker wanted a balance between work and family life. She then noticed the number of professionals who, like her, wanted to either continue or further their careers while also making time for an outside life.

The couple want to expand, first with branch offices, then selling franchisees, Carey Baker said.

“Before we franchise, we want to expand with a branch office, probably into Oklahoma City, which we consider a natural market,” Carey Baker said. “We have a strong belief in our model and that it will work in just about any market.”

As businesses look to reduce expenses to improve the bottom lines, they will increasingly turn to talent acquisition firms like Part-Time Pros, she said.

Last year, PTP placed second in the Tulsa Mayor Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.