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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE *SKILLSOURCE* GROUP, INC. ANNOUNCES NEW GRANT FUNDING  
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO PROVIDE  
REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS TO YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**September 25, 2009** – The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (*SkillSource*), the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board (NVWIB), has received a \$243,631 grant award from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy for the Employment through Registered Apprenticeship program (ERA) in Northern Virginia, which will provide assessment, training, supportive services and placement for young adults, including those with disabilities, between the ages of 16 and 27 into Registered Apprenticeship programs. These funds will remain available through September 30, 2011. *SkillSource* was one of only two grantees that were awarded funds through this national competition.

*SkillSource*, as the lead organization, will engage numerous partners in this regional initiative – its *SkillSource* One-Stop Employment Centers, which have demonstrated experience securing job training services and their Operator, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services; ServiceSource, a non-profit organization that provides employment and training services to people with disabilities; Northern Virginia Community College; CedarPC, an IT company that is a Registered Apprenticeship Program sponsor; and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. The Northern Virginia initiative will support young adults with disabilities to gain necessary skills to become self-sufficient while also developing new registered apprenticeship sites in high growth industries, such as healthcare and information technology throughout Northern Virginia.

Janet Samuelson, the Chairman of The *SkillSource* Group, Inc., said: “This initiative provides a great opportunity to further integrate Registered Apprenticeships within the public workforce system at the local level and will provide Federal officials with new information on how to replicate this model in other local areas and states throughout the nation. *SkillSource* is excited to use this new grant funding to further enhance our local delivery of employment services while also developing new registered apprenticeship sites to young adults with disabilities throughout the Northern Virginia region.”

For more information on The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, visit [www.myskillsource.org](http://www.myskillsource.org) or call (703) 752-1606.

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