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Instructor and training Coordinator, Jennifer Frost teaches a class at Project Hope in Roxbury.  
Photo Credit: Nicolaus Czarnecki/Metro

## City funds for career training gone soon

City officials hail the success job training programs yield. Despite the recession, 70 percent of participants in FY09 found jobs in their training fields, according to Conny Doty, who directs the city's Office of Jobs and Community Services.

Boston typically spreads out spending on job training initiatives throughout the fiscal year. Yet the city has burned through the majority of its job training dollars in a feverish effort to help struggling Bostonians struck by the rise in unemployment — up to 8.2 percent in October compared to 5.5 percent the same month in 2008, according to state figures.

Only 10 percent of the funds remain, which were held over for January to respond to additional layoffs, Doty said.

While federal assistance for job training dropped from \$1.9 million to \$1.5 million, the city also received another \$1.1 million in stimulus money for five group programs (including one at Project Hope) to help create more than 500 training slots overall, Doty said. The training fields include everything from computer skills to jobs in health care and food services, and interviewing skills are also covered.