

## Proposed cuts to senior job training worry local director

By John Nolan, Staff Writer

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DAYTON — President Obama’s proposal to slash funding for a training program designed to put older people back to work concerns Rick Tincher, who oversees an AFL-CIO food pantry that helps feed jobless union members and their families.

Obama’s budget for fiscal 2012, subject to reworking by Congress, proposes cutting funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, known to some as the “mature workers program,” by 45 percent. It would be transferred from the Department of Labor into the Department of Health and Human Services to be combined with other senior-serving programs.

It is part of Obama’s effort to reduce federal spending, although House Republicans say he hasn’t cut nearly enough.

His 2012 budget proposes nearly \$10 billion for Workforce Investment Act programs at the departments of Labor and Education, which represents the bulk of the government’s worker training and job-skills budget. That is a cut of \$1.6 billion, or about 13 percent, from fiscal 2010 and 2011 levels, Labor Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Alexander said.

Typically, the “mature workers” program supports workers in their 50s and 60s for jobs at nonprofit organizations, where they can learn skills to help them get back into the work force.

At the pantry Tincher runs in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 82 union hall in Vandalia, he’s hoping to provide enough training for his two part-time employees so they can find full-time work elsewhere. The program cuts will hurt that effort, he said.

Tad DeHaven of the Cato Institute, a think tank that advocates for limited government and free markets, said government employment and job training programs are poorly administered.

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