

[<< Back](#)



Nevadans react to president's jobs plan

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LAS VEGAS (FOX5) - President Barack Obama's address to the nation Thursday night has people talking about jobs once again, especially in Nevada where the [unemployment rate](#) remains the highest in the United States.

At 12.9 percent unemployment for the month of July 2011, to say Nevada is struggling is an understatement.

"We lost 67 percent of the skilled-trades workforce here in Nevada because there's no building going on. All of those people are unemployed," said Donna Lattanzio, CEO of Millennium Staffing Services in Las Vegas.

Lattanzio's [job](#) is to help others find a job. At Millennium Staffing Services, there are plenty of people who walk through the doors at Charleston and Cimarron in search of employment.

Last week, she said her firm put 455 people into temporary jobs, with about 1/3 having the potential to become permanent gigs. But, it's not enough.

"I know a lot of people who have been looking for work, and these people are with a high education level," said Las Vegas resident Rosalie Edens.

Hearing about the American Jobs Act has spawned both inspiration and skepticism.

"I'm hoping it works, but I'm not counting on it," said another local resident, Jaryn Larsen.

Larsen shared a story about a co-worker's son who has been searching for a job the better part of three years, with little luck – only finding temporary jobs.

But, one aspect of the plan does stand out to local companies: a \$4,000 tax credit for hiring someone who's been out of work for six months or longer.

"In Nevada, that can be a very important thing, because it would help businesses - small businesses to hire people who have been unemployed, and that would be a win-win situation for all of us," said Cara Roberts, senior director of communications for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

However, that victory can only happen if the money and the jobs come through.

"Once the states get the money, and once the employers get the money, they really have to focus on expanding their workforce and making the jobs happen," Lattanzio said.

[To read a transcript of the president's address, click here.](#)

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