



OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC

ENABLING DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

WELCOME

SUMMER 2006

SIGN-UP



Greetings! I hope your summer has been as eventful as ours. We've been very busy at Optimal. Some of our latest innovative research and project support has been with the U.S. Department of Education/e-Grant competitions, HUD's Moving-to-Work, and the

Ford Foundation. We've also hired 17 new employees and increased our New Carrollton office space. So please, read on for more information on some of our current projects.

Mark D. Turner, Ph.D., President and CEO
Optimal Solutions Group, LLC

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get started?

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SPOTLIGHT

Optimal Studies Employment Clusters for Low-Skilled Workers

Optimal was recently awarded a grant from the Ford Foundation to analyze employment clusters for low-skilled workers. To support this study, Optimal researchers will build upon past research in the field to create customized models for up to five metropolitan areas.

For more information, [click here](#).

Optimal Assists Housing Authorities on HUD Moving To Work Demonstration

Moving to Work (MTW) is a demonstration program based on existing public housing goals aimed at the

Questions or Comments?

Contact us for more
information:

443-451-7060 or

info@optimalsolutionsgroup.com

provision of suitable and safe housing for disadvantaged persons. Participating Public Housing Authorities have the flexibility to design and test various approaches for providing and administering housing assistance that:

- Reduce costs and achieve greater cost-effectiveness in Federal expenditures;
- Give incentives to families with children where the head of household is working, is seeking work, or is preparing for work through job training, education, or programs that assist residents to obtain employment and become economically self-sufficient; and,
- Increase housing choice for low-income families.

For more information, [click here](#).

Ferguson Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Jason Ferguson, who was recently on assignment at the National Center for Education Statistics assisting the Associate Commissioner, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. An economics graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Ferguson will soon travel to West Africa to continue his post-graduate studies.

For additional information, [click here](#).

INNOVATIONS

Web Meetings and Video Conferencing: A Key Component of Today's Meeting Planning

Tracye Turner, Vice President



As the federal government adapts to an e-environment, Optimal has stayed ahead of the curve by utilizing cost effective video and tele-conferencing technologies whenever possible.

Our video conferencing solutions have allowed our clients to share documents, collaborate, have multiple webcam feeds and instant message.

[Click here](#) for more information about web meeting and video conferencing solutions.

Optimal Supports National Education Conference

Optimal recently concluded work on an inaugural national conference for a division of the U.S. Department of Education. The National Research Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C., generated attendance of 500-plus grantees, contractors, students and colleagues within the education field. Some topics of discussion during the plenary, poster and panel sessions included current learning models, innovative teaching and learning processes, and next steps in childhood education.

Optimal will be administrators of the 2007 conference and was awarded a contract to provide administrative and logistical support to an associate Department of Education division as well.

For more information on the U.S. Department of Education [click here](#).

OPTIMAL NEWS

Baltimore Business Journal Names Optimal As A Top Local Firm

Optimal Solutions Group was honored by the Baltimore Business Journal (BBJ) as a one of Baltimore's Top Privately Owned Companies. Optimal was featured in the June 2006 issue of the publication as one of the 7th largest and fastest growing local companies in Maryland. The BBJ noted, "Optimal Solutions Group has parlayed its enviable locations, one in Baltimore and one in Washington, D.C., into a lucrative public policy research practice."

RECIPE CORNER



SALSA

INGREDIENTS:

Balsamic Vinegar (according to taste); Vinegar (2 soup spoons); Oil (1 soup spoon); 3/4 Sweet Onion; Green Pepper; Parsley; Cilantro; 9 Tomatoes (at least 3

varieties); Green Onion; Salt (according to taste)

HOW TO PREPARE: Dice the tomatoes. Chop the sweet onion, parsley, green pepper, cilantro, and

green onion. Mix all these ingredients. Add oil, vinegar, balsamic vinegar, and salt. Mix. Put more salt/balsamic vinegar according to your taste. If desired, add a few drops of lime juice. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Serve with fresh baguettes.

Submitted by Helga Gross, Business Manager and Optimal's first employee

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