



## Board Report

January 25, 2023

### Participant Service Goals for PY'22

Program	Regional Plan Goals	Carry-In PY'21 Clients	New in PY'22 (July 1-December 31)	Total	Goal %
WIOA Adult	782	90	211	301	38%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	160	12	36	48	30%
WIOA Out of School Youth	194	10	25	35	18%
WIOA In School Youth	48	7	23	30	63%

Region 8 struggled to meet performance last year due to a multitude of factors, such as pandemic office closures, customer/staff illnesses and staffing issues. We are now mostly staffed for the first time in two years and are starting to see an increase in enrollments. Of the individuals we have been able to serve, we are seeing many successes across the region:

*Daniel K. was referred to the Linton WorkOne office by Wagler Education and Training Center after he expressed interest in furthering his education. Daniel was previously enrolled in Adult Education classes at Wagler along with his son and earned his HSE in early 2022. At the time he was referred, Daniel was employed as an auto technician at Wal-Mart, earning \$15.30 per hour, but he wanted a way to increase his earning potential. He expressed interest in the Welding Training offered at Wagler Education and Training Center. Daniel met with a Career Advisor and was dual enrolled in Wagner Peyser and WIOA services. He started WRG-funded welding training on 08/08/2022 and successfully completed the training course. He earned his welding certification on 10/07/2022 and once he obtained that certification, Daniel accepted a welding position at Bear Run Coal Company earning \$32.00 per hour.*

## Region 8 County Unemployment Rates

County	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Brown	3.2%	2.9%	2.2%	2.8%	2.7%
Daviess	2.6%	2.2%	1.6%	2.2%	2.1%
Greene	3.9%	3.4%	2.5%	3.1%	3.1%
Lawrence	3.7%	3.0%	2.4%	3.2%	3.2%
Martin	2.7%	2.3%	2.0%	2.5%	2.5%
Monroe	3.7%	2.8%	1.9%	2.8%	2.6%
Orange	4.1%	3.5%	2.6%	3.2%	3.2%
Owen	3.9%	3.2%	2.4%	3.0%	2.9%

As of November 2022, Indiana's unemployment rate was 3.0%, which was well below the national rate of 3.6%. All Region 8 counties were below the state average with the exception of Greene, Lawrence and Orange which were the similar to the state rate. Indiana's labor force participation rate slightly decreased from 63.2% in September to 63.1% in October, but was still above the national rate of 62.1%.

Region 8 staff continue to answer basic UI questions and help customers use WorkOne computers to file UI claims. Customers who need additional assistance are required to call or email the UI Contact Center at DWD. Customers at the Linton and Bloomington WorkOne locations have the option of using a designated phone to speak directly with an Unemployment Specialist at the UI Contact Center. Customers have the option to file by phone if they do not have access to a computer or smart phone to file online.

Staff also continue to assist customers with ID.me, a highly secure identity verification process that was implemented in February 2021 to ensure claimants are able to access their unemployment benefits. This process was adopted due to claimants from several states being victimized by criminals using stolen identities to submit fraudulent unemployment claims. DWD has provided Region 8 with a few smart phones to assist customers in completing this process.

### RESEA

The Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program targets unemployed individuals who are most likely to exhaust UI benefits and provides career services designed to help them get back to work more quickly. The Region 8 RESEA team resumed in-person orientations and 1:1 meetings in the local WorkOne offices beginning in May 2022 which allowed staff the opportunity to increase enrollments. From July 1 to December 31, 2022, 591 individuals were selected to participate in RESEA services. Of those required to participate, 251 Assessment Interviews were completed with an RESEA Specialist. Of the remaining claimants, 57 had returned to work and the others declined services due to various reasons. During the same timeframe, 135 participants were selected for SUBRESEA. Of those required to participate, 87 successfully completed their required 1:1 meeting. Of those remaining claimants, 7 returned to work and the rest declined services.

## WARN/Non-WARN Notices and Rapid Response Activities

**Ascension St. Vincent Dunn-** On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Ascension St. Vincent Dunn Hospital in Bedford announced the facility would be closing in December 2022, affecting approximately 220 workers. The layoff included employees from the hospital, medical group, providers and contracted workers. An onsite job fair was held for the employees on October 21<sup>st</sup> with 58 employees participating in the event with numerous offers of employment. Rapid Response Orientations were held onsite during work hours on December 13<sup>th</sup> presenting WorkOne Services, Adult Basic Education Services and community services. The facility closed on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**General Motors-Bedford-** General Motors in Bedford announced a planned September 30<sup>th</sup> layoff of 60+ employees which included temporary and permanent workers. Rapid Response Orientations were held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup> where those affected received information about WorkOne services. A Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition has been filed on behalf of the workers.

**Catalent-** in a November 30<sup>th</sup> public announcement, the company indicated plans to lay off 405 workers on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Catalent hosted a virtual meeting with community partners on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. WorkOne has supplied Catalent with rapid response information to provide to the affected workers.

**Cardinal Spirits Distillery** laid off 12 workers on November 18<sup>th</sup>. WorkOne services were presented to employees on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Performance Highlights and Business Services Updates

**From July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, the Business Service Team assisted with the following:**

- **Work Based Learning – Two (2)** customers have participated in work-based learning (WBL) with a regional employer.
- **WorkKeys - 38** WorkKeys assessments have been administered since July. Business Services staff continue to engage with employers throughout the region to discuss the utilization of these assessments as part of their hiring process.
- A total of **151 Distinct Employer contacts** were made, representing a **25%** achievement of our annual program goal of 600 contacts.
- A total of **431 Business Contacts** were made, representing a **26%** achievement of our annual program goal of 1,680 contacts. During this same time frame, employers searched **478 resumes** using the ICC resume database to fill job openings.

**Ongoing Hiring Events and Job Fairs taking place throughout the region:**

- From October through December 2022, WorkOne hosted, sponsored and attended **Eight** hiring events throughout the region. A few of these events included the Daviess County Farmworker Resource Event, Broadview Open House & Career Fair, Monroe County Community Job Fair, Bedford North Lawrence Career Fair and PTS Electronics Job Fair.

The Business Services team also attended the Greene County Job Fair on September 28<sup>th</sup> held at the Greene County Community Event Center in Bloomfield, IN. 24 employers participated in the job fair and there were 30 job seekers that attended the event. Pictured at right representing WorkOne is Business Services Consultant Linda Eslinger.



## GRANT UPDATES

### National Dislocated Worker Employment Recovery Grant (DW-ERG)

Region 8 received \$350,000 to provide Career Services, Training and Supportive Services to Dislocated Workers who have been affected by COVID-19. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 126 eligible workers have been enrolled to participate in career and training services. The region recently received an additional \$100,000 of funding to serve more customers and will be able to utilize this funding until May 2023.

### WIOA Support Grant PY21

Region 8 was awarded approximately \$485,000 to fund initiatives to assist with capacity building, target populations, employer engagement and youth engagement. All remaining funds from this grant must be spent by March 31, 2023. The three strategies being used to address these initiatives are Pathways to Apprenticeships, Youth Engagement and WorkOne Customer Service.

1. **Pathways to Apprenticeship-** Apprenticeship and Work-based Learning Coordinator Gail Mitchell continues to work with Region 8 apprentices and supports regional staff in worksite development for WIOA participants in need of work-based learning. The training portion of this initiative has been modified again to allow for additional training programs and adjusted performance metrics to meet the current training needs in the region. The majority of training funds will be obligated for existing customers by the end of February.
2. **Youth Engagement-** The Region 8 Youth Engagement Coordinator contacted youth organizations and agencies across the region to promote our youth services and discuss cross referral efforts. She also attended career fairs at local high schools which allowed her to discuss youth services with their students. The Youth Engagement Coordinator recently accepted another position and unexpended funds allocated for this position were shifted to assist with training needs within the region.
3. **WorkOne Customer Service-** Region 8 hired six (6) Workforce Training Assistants to provide support in the local offices. This allows for the Career Advisors to focus on enrolling eligible participants in the various programs currently being provided in Region 8. The region will determine the ability to maintain and fund these positions as the grant funds end.

### WIOA Support Grant PY22- Employer Training Scholarship Fund (ETSF)

Region 8 received \$428,282 to support the PY'22 Performance Support Grant initiative for employer training requests. Of this total, \$351,391 has been allocated for tuition assistance. The Employer Training Scholarship Fund (ETSF) provides funds for short-term training that leads to certifications for existing workers and new hires of companies located within the region. While the individuals who earn these credentials certainly benefit from their enhanced skills, the primary focus is based on the staffing needs of local employers. Participant eligibility is based on requests from employers rather than the economic status or existing marketable skills of the workers. Although this initiative is funded through Performance Support Grant Funds, staff has co-enrolled the majority of these individuals in WIOA. This initiative serves to increase employer engagement and helps address the needs of businesses while also providing a certification to each individual. To date, Region 8 has had 12 employers take part in this initiative. 15 individuals have received training and all have completed their course. Along with the 100% class completion rate thus far, 87% of those tested have received their certification.

For Program Year 2022 (July 2022-June 2023), Region 8 received WRG grant funds for tuition in the amount of \$360,000. Approximately \$275,000 of these funds have been obligated. From July 2022 to December 2022, 68 students have been enrolled in training. Of those students, 59 have successfully completed their training course for a 91% completion rate. 46 have currently earned their certification which equates to a 78% certification rate.

As of 7/1/22, Region 8 has \$977,000 of Employer Training Grant funds available. \$849,000 of these funds will be used to reimburse employers for training new employees and/or upskilling incumbent workers. Employers who have not received Next Level Jobs training grants in the past will be given priority for these funds. Businesses who would like more information about how to apply for these funds should contact Robin Branch ([rbranch@vinu.edu](mailto:rbranch@vinu.edu)) or Earl Isom ([eisom@dwd.in.gov](mailto:eisom@dwd.in.gov)).

### Workforce Ready Grant Success:

*Steven Venegas came to the WorkOne office to receive assistance with CDL-A training in Oct. 2022. He said that taking this training course has changed his life in a positive way. Steven felt it was the best decision he has made in his life. Steven stated "It was not easy for me to be without a job and no income in this bad economy and with the gas price on the rise, but I had to take the course to get the certificate. I wish I could say that it was easy, but it was not! You had to wake up early in the morning and drive every day to the training school in Indianapolis and drive back to Bloomington for 4 weeks. At the end of the course, you had to take the tough test and pass it, but I managed to complete the course and get the certificate." Steven was glad everything went well and now he is happy with the decision since truck driving is in high demand and paying well. Steven stated that he was grateful to the WorkOne office in Region 8 that made the training possible and the staff who helped him in achieving his dream to become a heavy truck driver. Steven presented his C1 Truck Driver Training hat as a gift to his Career Advisor, Malalai "Molly" Yawar. Steven and Molly are pictured at the Bloomington WorkOne office following Steven's success.*



Paoli JAG students were able to participate in a great demonstration from a local employer. Ray Amos, an Engineer from Cook Medical, never disappoints with his interactive presentations. Students were able to test out some experiments alongside Ray such as sliding a skewer through a balloon and it remaining inflated during the process. Ray also represents the American Society of Plastics Engineers and informs our students about available scholarships.



Owen Valley High School JAG students volunteered at the Spencer-Owen Community Schools Career Expo that took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The JAG students assisted with the 5th grade students who had the opportunity to visit with 30 people sharing insight about their careers.



Mitchell HS JAG Specialist, Nikki Porter, was nominated by her students to be the Statewide Specialist of the Month for December 2022. A Mitchell JAG student that played a part in her nomination said, "Not only has her class been the one I am most excited for every day, but she has already done so much for me. I know that anytime I have a question or need to talk, she has open arms. I genuinely look up to Nikki. She deserves this and much more for everything she has done for all of her students."



**Save the Date:** The Regional Career Development Conference (CDC) is scheduled for 02/02/2022 at the French Lick Hotel Banquet Casino beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please join us if you have the opportunity!