



Board Report

June 29, 2022

Participant Service Goals for PY'21

Program	Regional Plan Goals	Carry-In Clients	New in PY'21 (July 1-May 31)	Total	Goal %
WIOA Adult	879	195	337	532	61%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	211	47	25	72	34%
WIOA Out of School Youth	172	19	28	47	27%
WIOA In School Youth	43	14	8	22	51%

Region 8 has struggled to meet performance this year due to a multitude of factors, such as pandemic office closures, customer/staff illnesses and staffing issues. We are now fully 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:

Kate-Lynn is a single mother of two young children who had been working at a local fast food restaurant for the past 7 years. She came into the Paoli WorkOne office stating she was tired of her current job and was interested in training. After completing an orientation to services and WIOA enrollment, Kate-Lynn did her career research and decided that medical assisting was the best choice for her. She utilized WRG funds to attend her CCMA training in Bedford while working her full-time job at Hardee's and raising her children. She was also provided with gas assistance to attend classes. With the help of her Career Advisor, Kate-Lynn was proactive in seeking employment and was offered jobs from both SICHC and IU Health before her training program was completed. She accepted a CCMA position at IU Health starting out at \$16 an hour plus benefits. Kate-Lynn states she is thrilled to have the opportunity to earn a higher wage than she's ever earned in her life along with working day shift hours to enable her to spend quality time with her children.

Hayden is 25 years old and married with 2 children. He had a high school diploma, but no other degrees or certifications. Hayden was employed when he met with Linda Knight at the Bedford WorkOne but he was seeking training to find employment that was more fulfilling and increased his earning potential. He received WRG training to attend truck driver training at TDI in Sellersburg. Upon completion of training, he successfully obtained his Class A CDL. Linda assisted Hayden with job search and they were able to find an opportunity with the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) in Indianapolis. Hayden applied, was hired by IBEW and now earns more than \$22.00 per hour.

Region 8 County Unemployment Rates

County	December	January	February	March	April
Brown	1.2%	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.1%
Daviess	.8%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%
Greene	1.4%	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.2%
Lawrence	1.3%	2.5%	2.8%	2.8%	2.2%
Martin	.9%	1.8%	2.0%	2.2%	1.6%
Monroe	1.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%	1.7%
Orange	1.6%	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%	2.5%
Owen	1.4%	2.5%	2.9%	3.0%	2.3%

As of April 2022, Indiana's unemployment rate was 2.2%, which was well below the national rate of 3.6%. Orange and Owen were slightly above the state average with all other counties being equal to or slightly lower than that. The labor force participation rate rose from 62.4% in March to 62.6% in April.

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 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. During the pandemic, Region 8 has maintained RESEA services using a telephonic/virtual service model. From June 2021 to May 2022, 1,649 individuals were selected to participate in RESEA services. Of those required to participate, 554 Assessment Interviews were completed with an RESEA Specialist. Of the remaining claimants, 251 had returned to work and the others declined services due to various reasons. During the same timeframe, 114 participants were selected for SUBRESEA. Of those required to participate, 114 successfully completed their required 1:1 meeting. Of those remaining claimants, 51 returned to work and the remaining declined services. The Region 8 RESEA team resumed in-person orientation and 1:1 meeting in the local WorkOne locations beginning in May 2022 which has allowed staff an opportunity to increase enrollments at the local WorkOne offices.

WARN/Non-WARN Notices and Rapid Response Activities

There have been no WARN notices since the last board meeting.

Performance Highlights and Business Services Updates

From July 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022, the Business Service Team assisted with the following:

- **Work Based Learning** – 37 customers have participated in work-based learning (WBL) with regional employers.
- **WorkKeys** - 194 WorkKeys assessments have been administered since July. Business Services staff continue to engage with employers throughout the region to discuss the utilization of the assessments as part of their hiring process.
- A total of **316 Distinct Employer contacts** were made, representing a **53%** achievement of our annual program goal of 600 contacts.
- A total of **1,556 Business Contacts** were made, representing a **93%** achievement of our annual program goal of 1,680 contacts. During this same time frame, employers searched **3,680 resumes** using the ICC resume database to fill job openings.

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

- WorkOne hosted, sponsored and attended 13 hiring events throughout the region. A few of these events included Buy Indiana Expo, Brown County Job Fair, Monroe County Community Job Fair, Bedford North Lawrence Career Fair, Edgewood Career Fair and the Brown County H.S. Career Fair. We also continued sponsoring I.U Building and Landscape Services Job Fairs and IU Residential Program Services Job Fairs in April and May. Bloomington WorkOne Career Advisor Malalai (Molly) Yawar is pictured (left) speaking with an employer representative from Service Master at the Monroe County Community Job Fair. Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist Jerome Brown is pictured (right) meeting with representatives from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.



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 May 31st, 92 eligible workers have been enrolled to participate in career and training services.

WIOA Support Grant PY21

DWD extended another opportunity for Workforce Boards to apply for WIOA Performance Support Grant funding that must be spent by March 31, 2023. Region 8 was awarded approximately \$485,000 to fund initiatives to assist with capacity building, target populations, employer engagement and youth engagement. The three strategies being used to address these initiatives are Pathways to apprenticeships, Youth Engagement and WorkOne Customer Services.

1. **Pathways to Apprenticeship-** Apprenticeship and Workbased Learning Coordinator Gail Mitchell is recruiting apprentices and employers for the CCMA program as well as assisting in monitoring of apprentice worksites for biomanufacturing apprentices. She is also supporting regional staff in worksite development for WIOA participants in need of work-based learning. Four (4) customers are currently being funded for training as a part of this initiative.
2. **Youth Engagement-** Youth Engagement Coordinator Juanita Sciscoe has been actively contacting youth organizations and the following types of agencies to promote our youth services and discuss cross referral efforts: Region 8 High Schools counselors/teachers, Adult Education, JAG programs, Probation, Department of Child Services and CASA programs. She has also attended career fairs at local high schools which allows her to discuss youth services with their students. This effort has already yielded significant interest from JAG students and other high school youth who would like to take advantage of employment and training services following graduation. Since many of these youth did not access the WorkOne Centers until they completed graduation in May, full measurement of these efforts will likely become more apparent at the end of June 2022.
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.



Next Level Jobs: Workforce Ready Grant and Employer Training Grant

Region 8 received \$434,000 of Workforce Ready Grant funding to provide short-term training for customers during the period 1/1/22 to 6/30/22. As of June 15th, those funds were fully obligated and 115 individuals have been approved for tuition assistance. Region 8 has been notified that an additional WRG funding award of \$400,000 will be received on July 1st.

Region 8 was awarded \$970,000 to reimburse employers for training new employees and/or upskilling incumbent workers. As of 6/20/22, training reimbursements in that amount of \$389,118 have been processed for a total of 13 employers. This contract is scheduled to end in December 2022.

Employers who would like more information about how to apply for these funds should contact Robin Branch (rbranch@vinu.edu) or Earl Isom (eisom@dwd.in.gov).

The JAG 5 of 5 Award is awarded to JAG programs that meet or exceed performance measures in five graduation, further education and employment standards established by the JAG National organization. Region 8 is proud to announce that the JAG class of 2021 has achieved the 5 of 5 JAG program standard.

JAG National Standard	State Expectation	State Average	Region 8
Graduation Rate	90%	94%	98%
Employment Rate	60%	69%	73%
Positive Outcome Rate	75%	82%	84%
Full Time Employment Rate	60%	85%	91%
Further Education Rate	35%	39%	39%

The easing of COVID-19 protocols the last nine weeks of school allowed JAG students the opportunity to make up for lost time by hitting the road for several field trips. Student are seen below touring Ivy Tech-Sellersburg and Vincennes University's main campus.



Students also had the opportunity to take tours at work sites for employers such as Electricom, Metal Technologies and Toyota Boshoku. Left: Students are seen touring Electricom and learning about their apprenticeship programs.