



Board Report

September 27, 2023

Participant Service Goals for PY'23

Program	Regional Plan Goals	Potential Carry-In Clients PY'22	New in PY'23 (July 1-August 31)	Total	Goal %
WIOA Adult	523	116	110	226	43%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	128	35	32	67	52%
WIOA Out of School Youth	146	16	20	36	25%
WIOA In School Youth	37	22	1	23	62%

Region 8 had a good start to the program year with increased enrollments for the months of July and August. This was largely due to the increased enrollments of clients from the RESEA and WRG Programs. Our education, training and job placement services have also helped a lot of participants successfully achieve their career goals. Below is one of the successes we have recently seen in the region:

Ashley is a 32-year-old female, and a mother of 2 children. She came to the Bloomington WorkOne office to speak to a Career Advisor about training. Ashley wanted help finding a job she would enjoy that could also provide a better opportunity to support her family. She had recently worked in manufacturing, but prior to that, she had been employed as a Home Health Aide. Because Ashley enjoyed interacting with her patients, she was very interested in a career in the medical field.

Career Advisor Molly Yawar assisted Ashley with career research and together they determined that Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) would be the best training for her to pursue. Career Advisor Yawar and Ashley reviewed training program options and she elected to attend CCMA training offered through Broadview Learning Center. Ashley began her WRG-funded CCMA training on February 2, 2023. She successfully completed her training on June 2, 2023 and earned her credential on June 12, 2023. Ashley immediately came back to WorkOne for assistance with job search. With the help of her Career Advisor, she updated her resume and applied for several CCMA positions. Ashley accepted an offer from IU Health Bloomington Hospital for full-time employment on August 28, 2023 and began her new career as a CCMA earning \$20.10 per hour.

Region 8 County Unemployment Rates

County	March	April	May	June	July
Brown	3.6%	2.5%	2.5%	3.2%	3.4%
Daviess	2.5%	1.9%	1.9%	2.6%	2.9%
Greene	4.2%	3.1%	3.1%	4.3%	4.6%
Lawrence	4.3%	3.1%	3.1%	4.2%	4.4%
Martin	3.0%	2.4%	2.4%	3.1%	3.3%
Monroe	3.2%	2.4%	2.4%	3.9%	4.5%
Orange	4.0%	2.7%	2.7%	3.7%	3.8%
Owen	4.3%	2.9%	2.9%	3.8%	4.0%

As of July 2023, Indiana's unemployment rate was 3.3%, which was below the national rate of 3.5%. All Region 8 counties were equal to or above the state average with the exception of Daviess. Indiana's labor force participation rate was 63.6% in July, which was above the national rate of 62.6%.

Region 8 staff continue to answer basic UI questions and help customers use WorkOne computers to file UI claims as needed. Customers who need additional assistance are required to call or email the UI Contact Center at DWD. Customers at the Bloomington WorkOne location 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. From July 1 to August 31, 2023, 263 individuals were selected to participate in RESEA services. Of those required to participate, 166 Assessment Interviews were completed with an RESEA Specialist which resulted in a 64% participation rate for the region. Of the remaining claimants, 23 had returned to work and the others declined services due to various reasons. During the same timeframe, 163 participants were selected for SUBRESEA. Of those required to participate, 91 successfully completed their required 1:1 meeting. Of those remaining claimants, 10 returned to work and the rest declined services.

WARN/Non-WARN Notices and Rapid Response Activities

General Motors-Bedford - On September 14, 2023, over 10,000 General Motors workers went on strike at plants in Wentzville, Detroit and Toledo. A local UAW Representative at General Motors in Bedford reported that the Bedford Plant would continue working and planned to remain in a holding pattern with an expired agreement. The local UAW Representative stated that the Bedford plant may go on strike, continue working, or possibly have a layoff due to a lack of work related to the other GM plants being on strike. Negotiations occurred Monday, September 18th. If available, additional information will be provided at the board meeting.

Performance Highlights and Business Services Updates

From July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023 the Business Service Team assisted with the following:

- **Three (3)** customers have participated in **work-based learning (WBL) opportunities** with regional employers.
- **65 WorkKeys assessments** have been administered to individuals throughout the region. Business Services staff continue to promote the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and engage with employers to discuss the utilization of these assessments as part of their hiring process.
- A total of **61 Distinct Employer** contacts were made, representing a **10%** achievement of our annual program goal of 600 contacts.
- A total of **449 Business Contacts** were made, representing a **37%** achievement of our annual program goal of 1,680 contacts. During this same time frame, employers searched **over 83 resumes** using the ICC resume database to fill job openings.

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

- During July and August, WorkOne hosted, sponsored and/or attended **10** events throughout the region. Some of these events included the Bedford Wellness Resource Fair; Monroe County Job Fair; Broadview Learning Center Open House; Bloomington Resource Fair. Several mini-job fairs were also hosted by WorkOne county offices for employers during this period.
- The Martin County Job Fair was held on August 24th at the Martin County Fairgrounds. This event was heavily marketed via social media and featured in an article in the Southern Indiana Business Review prior to the event. The job fair featured 22 employers and WorkOne provided a “How to Work a Job Fair” workshop which gives participants tips for approaching employers and what questions to ask. 13 job seekers attended the workshop and 45 job seekers attended the event.



Pictured Above: Career Advisors Katie Payne and Sandy Bratton representing WorkOne



Jobseekers interacting with employers at the Martin County Job Fair

GRANT UPDATES

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

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 increases employer engagement and helps address the needs of businesses while also providing a certification to each individual. Over \$350,000 was granted for tuition assistance and approximately \$328,000 of those funds have been obligated. As of August 31st, Region 8 has engaged 46 employers in this initiative. 55 participants have received training. 51 have completed training with only one (1) dropping out. Along with the 98% class completion rate thus far, 90% of those tested have received their certification. At least 24 individuals have received a pay increase since receiving their certification.



Next Level Jobs: Workforce Ready Grant and Employer Training Grant

Workforce Ready Grant

For Program Year 2023 (7/1/23 - 6/30/24), Region 8 received \$700,000 of WRG funds for tuition assistance. The region currently has 53 clients enrolled and approximately \$172,000 has been obligated. As of August 31st, 12 clients have completed training with the remaining 41 still attending training. Below is one of the many Region 8 success stories that have resulted from WRG funds:

Chris came to the Martin County WorkOne requesting training assistance. He had worked as a laborer and wanted to earn a certification that would help him find a better job in an occupation he would enjoy. Chris worked with Career Advisor Katie Payne to research potential career options. Based on his assessment results, he chose to pursue welding as an occupation. Chris researched available training programs and decided to attend classes at Wagler Education and Training Center to obtain his certification as a welder. On May 30, 2023 Chris began his training utilizing WRG funding to pay for the tuition costs associated with the class. Chris successfully completed his welding training on June 20, 2023 and passed his American Welding Society certification test on June 22, 2023. Chris worked with Career Advisor Payne to update his resume and complete job search. On July 25, 2023, Chris accepted a full-time position with AMI as a welder earning \$18.00 per hour.

Employer Training Grant

For Program Year 2022, Region 8 received \$849,000 to reimburse employers for the cost of training new employees and/or upskilling incumbent workers. Almost \$800,000 of that funding was obligated prior to 6/30/23 and thus far approximately \$203,000 of reimbursement payments have been made to businesses. Region 8 will be allowed to carry unexpended PY'22 funds into the PY'23 (7/1/23 - 6/30/24) budget.

In addition to these PY'22 carry-in funds, Region 8 also received an initial ETG allocation of \$250,000 for PY'23 and we will have an opportunity to request more PY'23 ETG funds in the near future. Businesses 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).

Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant

In April 2023, the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board received \$547,000 through a DOL sponsored grant acquired by the DWD Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships. The Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) funding is intended to expand the number of programs and apprentices; diversify the industries that utilize Registered Apprenticeship (RAP); and increasing access to, and completion of, RAPs for underrepresented populations and underserved communities. The goal for these participants will be a nationally recognized credential. The grant period is effective from July 1, 2022 through May 15, 2026.

Target sectors for this grant include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- IT and Business Service
- Building and Construction
- Growth or Emerging Industry
- Health and Life Sciences
- Transportation and Logistics
- Agriculture

The following activities may be funded for RAP and certified Pre-Apprenticeship participants: Related Technical Instruction (RTI), On-the-Job Learning (OJL) and Supportive Services (SS). Region 8 is currently in the process of enrolling several apprentices and a more detailed update will be provided at the board meeting.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Youth Success:

Rebecca L. came into the Linton WorkOne office interested in attending a short-term training in the medical field. She had worked in the past, but those jobs and her current skill set did not allow her to earn enough money to pay for childcare. For those reasons, she opted to become a stay-at-home mother while her children were young. Rebecca started CCMA classes at Wagler Education and Training Center on June, 5, 2023 and successfully completed training on August 24, 2023. Rebecca earned her CCMA Credential from the National Healthcareer Association on August 31, 2023. Since earning her CCMA credential, Rebecca has accepted full-time employment at IU Health-Bloomington as a CCMA earning \$19.37 per hour. Rebecca has wonderful things to say about the CCMA training she received at Wagler Education and Training Center stating, "Wagler is great! They are smaller so you get more one-on-one attention. I also enjoyed the hands-on learning and clinical experience. I am thankful for the partnership WorkOne has with Wagler so I could benefit from this opportunity and better myself and my family."



Social Media- Facebook

Region 8 recently created a Facebook page to increase opportunities to share information about our services, highlight upcoming events and spotlight resources throughout our region. The link can be accessed at:

<http://www.facebook.com/WorkOneSouthCentral>. Make sure to give it a like and follow!

Ivy Tech-Sellersburg Tour

Our Paoli JAG students made a road trip to visit the Ivy Tech Community College- Sellersburg campus and Perkins Technology Center. They toured the facility and were able to experience hands-on training provided at the campus.



40 pints donated and \$400 raised for Riley Children's Hospital

Our Eastern Greene High School (EGHS) JAG students worked hard to make this year's blood drive a huge success. The EGHS JAG Career Association officers put their leadership skills on display by showing up to the school at 6:30am to help set up and ensure the event ran smoothly throughout the day. JAG students ran the check-in process, held the hands of nervous first-time donors, coordinated students to move to their donation location when it was their turn to donate, and sat with students to keep them company in recovery.

