



Board Report

September 28, 2022

Participant Service Goals for PY'22

Program	Regional Plan Goals	Potential Carry-In PY'21 Clients	New in PY'22 (July 1-August 31)	Total	Goal %
WIOA Adult	782	86	96	182	23%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	160	11	2	13	8%
WIOA Out of School Youth	194	17	11	28	14%
WIOA In School Youth	48	7	2	9	19%

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:

Jacob is 19 years old and recently obtained his High School Equivalency. He was unable to attend college and was working at a local restaurant earning \$10.00 per hour. Jacob knew he wanted to do more with his life and be able to earn a better wage. Jacob met with Career Advisor Kayla Russell at the Linton WorkOne to discuss employment and training opportunities. He was enrolled in WIOA and completed career research with the assistance of his career advisor. He utilized Performance Support Grant (PSG) funding to attend CNC training at Wagler Education and Training Center. Upon completion of training, he earned his certification and was hired immediately at Apexx Enterprises as a full-time CNC Machinist earning \$18.00 per hour.

James is 35 years old. He previously worked as a foreman at a coal mine, but due to health issues, was no longer able to perform the duties required of the job. James had a high school diploma, but lacked skills and education to find employment that would allow him to earn a decent wage within a commutable distance to his home. James was referred to Career Advisor Kayla Russell at the Linton WorkOne. After he was enrolled in WIOA, it was determined that James would benefit from training to increase his likelihood of obtaining self-sufficient employment. He was provided with Workforce Ready Grant (WRG) funding to complete CDL training at Wagler Education and Training Center. He obtained his CDL Class A license, and is now a full-time truck driver at Coca Cola earning \$21.00 per hour.

Region 8 County Unemployment Rates

County	March	April	May	June	July
Brown	2.8%	2.1%	2.4%	3.0%	3.2%
Daviess	2.0%	1.5%	1.9%	2.5%	2.6%
Greene	2.9%	2.2%	2.7%	3.6%	3.9%
Lawrence	2.8%	2.2%	2.7%	3.3%	3.7%
Martin	2.2%	1.6%	2.0%	2.4%	2.7%
Monroe	2.3%	1.7%	2.4%	3.3%	3.7%
Orange	3.3%	2.5%	2.9%	3.7%	4.1%
Owen	3.0%	2.3%	2.7%	3.5%	3.9%

As of July 2022, Indiana's unemployment rate was 2.6%, which was well below the national rate of 3.5%. All Region 8 counties were above the state average with the exception of Daviess, which was the same as the state rate. Indiana's labor force participation rate rose again, from 63.1% in June to 63.3% in July, remaining 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 allows staff an opportunity to increase enrollments. From July 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022, 142 individuals were selected to participate in RESEA services. Of those required to participate, 67 Assessment Interviews were completed with an RESEA Specialist. Of the remaining claimants, 12 had returned to work and the others declined services due to various reasons. During the same timeframe, 41 participants were selected for SUBRESEA. Of those required to participate, 21 successfully completed their required 1:1 meeting. Of those remaining claimants, one returned to work and the remaining declined services.

WARN/Non-WARN Notices and Rapid Response Activities

General Motors-Bedford- General Motors in Bedford announced a planned September 30th lay off of 60+ employees which will include temporary and permanent workers. Rapid Response Orientations were held on September 9th and 16th where those effected received information about WorkOne services. Another Rapid Response orientation is being planned for Monday, October 3rd. A Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition has been filed on behalf of the workers.

Ascension St. Vincent Dunn- On September 16th, Ascension St. Vincent Dunn Hospital in Bedford announced the facility will be closing in December 2022, affecting approximately 220 workers. The layoff includes employees from the hospital, medical group, providers and contracted workers. Planning is in progress for presenting Rapid Response Orientations to affected workers in the near future.

Performance Highlights and Business Services Updates

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

- **Work Based Learning – One** customer has participated in work-based learning (WBL) with a regional employer.
- **WorkKeys - 21** 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 **87 Distinct Employer contacts** were made, representing a **15%** achievement of our annual program goal of 600 contacts.
- A total of **152 Business Contacts** were made, representing a **9%** achievement of our annual program goal of 1,680 contacts. During this same time frame, employers searched **80 resumes** using the ICC resume database to fill job openings.

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

- 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 Voices for Recovery Event in Orange County to support the Safe Haven Engagement Recovery Center. The Center is a regional hub dedicated to promoting and maintaining recovery from substance use in Orange, Dubois, Crawford, Perry, Washington, Martin, Pike and Daviess counties. Pictured at right representing WorkOne at this event are Business Services Director Robin Branch, DWD Community Employment Specialist Jim Ehinger and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist Jerome Brown.



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 August 31st, 96 eligible workers have been enrolled to participate in career and training services. The region recently requested an additional \$100,000 to serve more customers and is awaiting a response from DWD.

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 continues to work with Region 8 apprentices as well as support regional staff in worksite development for WIOA participants in need of work-based learning. The training portion of this initiative was modified 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 October.
2. **Youth Engagement-** Youth Engagement Coordinator Juanita Sciscoe continues to contact 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 yielded significant interest from JAG students and other high school youth who would like to take advantage of employment and training services following graduation. Thanks to these efforts, 18 new youth have been enrolled since school ended for the summer.
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

On August 5th, Region 8 received an additional WRG grant award of \$400,000. Nearly 100% of these funds are already obligated to assist existing customers with tuition costs. Region 8 has requested additional funding and is awaiting further information from DWD.

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) or Earl Isom (eisom@dwd.in.gov).



The Paoli JAG class recently went on a tour of the West Baden Resort and had the opportunity to talk to the Human Resources department about the multitude of jobs available at all of the French Lick Resort properties.



The Edgewood JAG students recently worked on preparing for this year's Creative Solutions competition at the Career Development Conference. They were tasked with building the tallest tower possible using only 20 strands of spaghetti, 20 marshmallows, and a yard of masking tape. The tallest tower came in at 25" tall.



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. More details will be coming soon!