

Did You Know?

Over the past two years:

- Macon County’s unemployment rate was 10.4-14.6%.
- Illinois workNet Center in Decatur, Illinois assisted 72,757 job seekers with resume development, on-line applications, job search and interview workshops, basic computer training and job referral assistance.
- 1,113 dislocated workers and low-income adults and youth were enrolled in training programs

Over Program Year 2010:

- Adults completing the WIA program earned \$1,092,316 in wages. The total allocation for the Adult program was \$366,590. Compared to the allocation received, this is a 298% return.
- Dislocated Workers completing the WIA program earned \$3,257,156 in wages. The total allocation for the DW program was \$1,175,569. Compared to the allocation received, this is a 277% return.
- 21 local companies received incumbent worker training funding to upgrade the skills of their current workforce.
- 289 Incumbent Workers received training.
- 22 companies hired Workforce Investment Solutions customers in Program Year 2010

Additional Success Stories:

“After working in the business field for 17 years, I was “let go” with no valid reason or fault of my own. With WIA funding, I have purchased all the books necessary to prepare for the nursing program. I chose the nursing field for several reasons, but mainly I wanted to help people. I am in class with several people who are also receiving WIA assistance. Since the nursing program is selective, every person accepted has to be the best. I plan to complete the nursing program at Richland Community College in May 2012, and without WIA, my future would not be as bright.”

- Nancy Ford, Workforce Customer

“I am a 37-year-old single mom of two children. When my divorce was finalized, I was very scared. I worked different jobs with various pay and work hours, but realized they were all dead-end jobs. I have had to swallow a lot of pride to ask for assistance with housing, medical, and food. I know that getting an education will mean this assistance is only short term and will help me reach my goal of becoming a Radiology Technician. The funding through the Workforce Investment Act has helped me achieve my dreams.”

- Melissa Baldassari, Workforce Customer

Workforce Investment Solutions of Macon and DeWitt Counties, Illinois, funded through the Workforce Investment Act, is a vital partner in meeting the skilled employee needs of our local businesses.

- Supporting efforts to recruit new businesses to the region
- Offering access to skilled workers and training incentives
- Assisting businesses that are closing or downsizing to ensure that they and their employees have guidance, information and access to services

Workforce Investment Solutions is on the front line, to assure that workers who are laid off can return to the workforce with essential new skills which will allow them to minimize periods of unemployment and maximize earning potential.

Program Year 2010 Overall Performance

Measure	Goal	Outcome	Status
Youth Attain Degree or Certification	45.00%	79.17%	EXCEED
Youth Placed in Employment/Education	56.00%	71.43%	EXCEED
Youth Literacy and Numeracy Gain	33.00%	52.17%	EXCEED
Adult Entered Employment Rate	80.00%	86.67%	EXCEED
Adult Employment Retention Rate	86.00%	94.87%	EXCEED
Adult Average Earnings	\$12,500.00	\$15,103.78	EXCEED
DW Entered Employment Rate	85.00%	90.91%	EXCEED
DW Employment Retention Rate	92.00%	95.74%	EXCEED
DW Average Earnings	\$16,000.00	\$18,008.06	EXCEED

Program Year 2010 Earnings Success

- The Adult Program is designed for low-income individuals. Adults completing the WIA program earned \$1,092,316 in wages. The total allocation for the Adult program was \$366,590. Compared to the allocation received, this is a 298% return.
- The Dislocated Worker program is designed for individuals who lose their job through no fault of their own. Dislocated Workers completing the WIA program earned \$3,257,156 in wages. The total allocation for the DW program was \$1,175,569. Compared to the allocation received, this is a 277% return.

Adult Services

This program provides services to job seekers that move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency. Examples of services provided include: educational assessments, assistance with tuition, books, child care, transportation, and job search. These services can be accessed at the Decatur Illinois workNet® Center. Results for the Adults enrolled in both the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs for the last two years include:

Enrollment & Training

Adult customers enrolled in training	183
Funds spent on direct training and supportive services	\$552,440
Average cost per customer	\$3,019
Adult customers who remained in training.....	141

Adult Employment for Program Year 2010

Percentage entered employment	87%
Six month Average Earnings	\$15,104

Adult Success Stories:

Christel Wheeler

“I was a single mother of two children, living on my own, and working a part time job while going to school full time. If it wasn’t for Workforce Investment Solutions, it would have been extremely hard to complete the nursing program because of finances and daycare costs. Thank you for the opportunity to reach my goals and realize my dream. I am now a registered nurse working full time at Decatur Memorial Hospital.”

Georgina Byars

“When I started the Workforce program, I was a mature adult. I had lost my job, had three children to feed, and money was tight. Workforce Investment Solutions paid for my tuition, fees, books and childcare. The program and the staff members were highly equipped to assist me. They gave me the guidance to stay focused on my education and gave me assistance in finding a job afterwards. The program was a success in my life.”

Dislocated Worker Services

This program provides services to individuals who have been affected by layoff and/or plant closures. Examples of services provided include: educational assessments, assistance with tuition, books, child care, transportation, and job search. These services can be accessed at the Decatur Illinois workNet® Center. Results for the Dislocated Workers enrolled in both Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs for the last two years include:

Enrollment & Training

Dislocated Worker customers enrolled in training	608
Funds spent on direct training and supportive services.....	\$1,638,009
Average cost per customer	\$2,694
Dislocated Worker customers who remained in training	550

Employment for Program Year 2010

Percentage entered employment	91%
Six month Average Earnings	\$18,008

Dislocated Worker Success Stories:

Nathan Rybolt

“I wanted to tell you about how beneficial the Workforce Investment Solutions educational assistance program was for me. It was truly a life-changing experience. They provided me with the necessary funds to finish my degree. I am now a Quality Engineer, and it may never have happened had it not been for WIS.”

Tammy Bledsaw

“I lost my job in December 2008 when the company I worked for downsized and subsequently closed. With the help of Workforce Investment Solutions, I was able to return to school in January 2009, and I am enrolled at Richland Community College in the Associates Degree Registered Nursing program. Workforce is allowing me to build a better future for my family. It is allowing me to achieve an important lifelong dream of being able to help people in ways that truly matter.”

Youth Success Stories:

Alicia Kramer

“I appreciate Workforce Investment Solutions assisting me through the Certified Nursing Assistant class at the Decatur Area Technical Academy. Without this program I would either be working two dead end jobs to pay my bills or have no job. When I finish this class I hope to expand my education to a higher potential. None of this would have been possible without the encouragement and support of the staff.”

Irma Brooks

“The Decatur Area Education Coalition sponsored a Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Camp over the summer of 2010. I became aware of the Workforce Investment Solutions Illinois YES program and hired 24 young people from the program to assist with the three-week camp. It was the best thing we could have done. I would participate in a program like this again without hesitation.”

Youth Services

This program provides services to assist at-risk youth to overcome barriers and achieve educational and employment goals. Examples of services provided include: summer employment opportunities, skills training, GED classes, leadership development, tutoring, career development, educational assessments, tuition, books, childcare, transportation, and job search assistance. These services can be accessed at the Decatur Illinois workNet® Center. Results for the youth enrolled in both Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs for the last two years include:

Enrollment

Youth customers enrolled in training.....	322
Youth customers who remained in training.....	55

Youth Employment or Education for Program Year 2010

Percentage entered employment or post-secondary education	71%
Youth who attained a credential.....	79%

Incumbent Worker Success Stories:

Union Iron

“We were able to train 18 workers in Lean Manufacturing Techniques with the assistance of Incumbent Worker Training funds from Workforce Investment Solutions. After training was completed, we added an additional 10 positions to our payroll, and were able to move our company to 100% on-time delivery of our product. We can now respond to the agriculture market and become a contender in the global market.”

-Cheryl Scholtz, HR Director

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“With the help of Incumbent Worker Training funding to train our workers, we were able to purchase software and make changes to keep us competitive. We were able to call back laid off workers and hire additional positions. The Workforce Investment Solutions program has been very beneficial for us.”

-Judy Leukowski, HR Director

Business Services

Workforce Investment Solutions offer services to businesses designed to improve the area’s economy through effective business involvement. Services provided to assist employers include: job seeker assessment, wage incentives for hiring (on-the-job training program), incumbent worker training, information/assistance with tax credits, labor exchange services, job fairs, job referrals, interview rooms (space for recruitment), and Rapid Response (downsizing assistance).

Incumbent Worker Training

Number of Projects with Local Employers	21
Number of Incumbent Workers Trained	289
Total Funds spent on Incumbent Worker Training.....	\$106,854