

West Virginia *WorkForce*



WIA and DHHR in West Virginia: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Success Stories

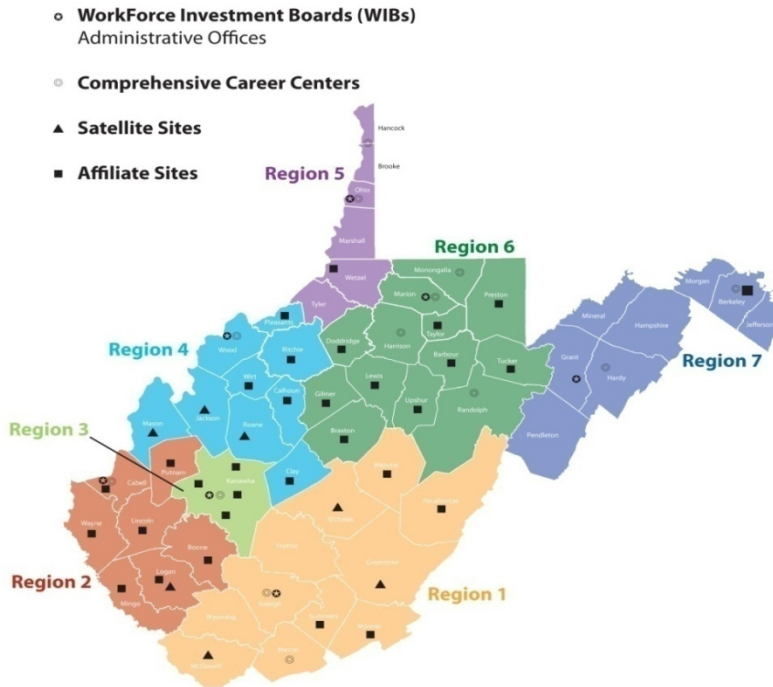


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WEST VIRGINIA

An Established Partnership Builds New Initiatives

WorkForce West Virginia Map



All seven of our Workforce Investment Board (WIB) regions have participated in delivering services for many of the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHR) programs in the state of West Virginia.

The WV Workforce Investment Act created an Interagency Collaborative Team (ICT). The ICT includes policy makers from state agencies involved in workforce development who are required to meet monthly.

When stimulus funding became available, the relationship established by the ICT provided a forum to for WorkForce and WV DHHR to develop new and mutually beneficial workforce development initiatives.



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Four WIA and DHHR Success Stories Resulting from New Collaborations in West Virginia

- Summer Youth Employment Program
- Employment Subsidy Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Excel Career Club

#1: Summer Employment Youth Program (SYEP) PY 10 and PY 11

- Statewide - Amount of Funds Received – \$6,762,968
- Statewide - Number of Participants Served – 2,912
- Statewide - Number of Participants Completing Program – 2,423
(83.21%)

Summer Youth Employment Program Highlights

- Temporary work experience program that operates during the summer months for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible youth between the ages of 14-21. The “first priority” was to serve TANF Work Eligible Recipients within the ages of 18-21. The WIBS role was to advertise, recruit employers and recruit low income youth to participate in the SYEP.
- The employment was 100% subsidized by WV DHHR. Older youth were placed with private sector employers and many obtained permanent employment with that employer following their work experience.
- The work experiences also included a Job Readiness curriculum that focused on career exploration, work ethics and job seeking skills.

Summer Youth Employment Program Successes

The program gave us the opportunity to work with a larger population that included:

- youth with disabilities
- youth who had been incarcerated as a minor

#2: Employment Subsidy Program (ESP)

- Amount of Funds Received – \$3,209,418
- Number of Participants Served – 3369
- Number of Participants Completing Program – 2513
(74.59%)

Employment Subsidy Program (ESP) Highlights

- Assist eligible TANF recipients obtain self-sufficiency through subsidized employment program.
 - Provided work experience and work readiness skills to TANF participants.
- TANF eligible Adults were placed into jobs with for-profits, non-profits and public employers for a 12 month period.
 - Employers were reimbursed 100% of TANF recipient wages for up to one year.
- This program allowed workers to gain valuable work experience and occupational skills while offering employers an opportunity to expand staffing and business activities during the post-recession period.
- All referrals for the program came from WV DHHR staff. WIB staff assisted clients to becoming job ready; this included mock interviews, resume development and career interest assessment.

Employment Subsidy Program (ESP) Successes

- Many employers hired TANF clients once the 12 month reimbursement period to employers ended.
- One employer hired machinists into permanent positions and sent them to school for certification.
- One individual was so successful in her placement that she was hired as a grant writer.
- Another individual was trained in the auto glass industry and acquired skills that enabled him to become permanently employed.

#3: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training Initiative

- Amount of Funds Received – \$1,383,680
- Number of Participants Served – 3,883
- Number of Participants Completing Program – 1,875 (48.91%)

SNAP Employment and Training Highlights

- The intent of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program was to ensure that E & T Participants were involved in work-related activities which could eventually lead to paid employment and a decreased dependency on assistance programs.
- Additionally, the program was designed to ensure that the Able Bodied Adults without Dependents population maintained eligibility for benefits by providing opportunities to participate in non-paid work.

SNAP Employment and Training Successes

- Benefits of the SNAP E&T program included referrals to One Stop Partners for assistance with transportation for volunteer activities, assistance with job search, job applications, resume development, interviewing and soft skills training.

#4: Excel Career Club

- Amount of Funds Received – \$3,209,418
- Number of Participants Served – 3369
- Number of Participants Completing Program – 2513 (74.59%)

Excel Career Club Highlights

Required 30 hours of classroom instruction in :

- Career Search
- Prep for taking GED
- Customer Service
- Job Search

WorkForce and WV DHHR Lessons Learned

- Local DHHR staff made visits to the One-Stop and were able to take information learned about programs and resources back to their clients.
- Employment Subsidy Program (ESP) was a “win-win” for all. The task of working directly with employers to place DHHR clients in jobs was administered by the Workforce Investment Boards with assistance from the One-Stop Partners. The One-Stops also played a significant role in preparing the clients for work by providing computers for job search and resume development.
- DHHR staff felt that this was one of our most beneficial collaborations. Having assistance with job placement was also beneficial.
- It was a tremendous help to small businesses and gave them funding to appropriately train potential permanent hires.

Moving Forward: Job Placement Collaborations

- Recommendations for future collaborations between DHHR and the local regions would be to focus on job placement through state or federal DHHR grants to support the staff and services.
- The WIBs and WorkForce West Virginia focus on job placement, therefore it has been easy to include these grants as an additional service to employers. This will eliminate duplication of services to employers.
- This will strengthen local DHHR partnerships because we work together to ensure the barriers for the clients are reduced prior to job placement.

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