

# Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Budget Highlights and Goals

## McHenry County Workforce Investment Board

### FY2007 Highlights

- The WIB, in collaboration with McHenry County College (MCC), developed a Welding Boot Camp Program. The program has been operational since November 2006.
- The WIB, also in collaboration with MCC received a grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation to help offset the tuition costs of the Welding Boot Camp Program participants.
- The WIB received a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to update its Strategic Plan.
- As part of the Workforce Boards of Metro Chicago (WBMC), the local WIB participated in a summit for the Finance and Insurance Industry.
- The WBMC also hosted follow-up session to the Health Care summit it held a few years ago. This meeting reinforced health care needs, accomplishments and best practices in the region as well as setting goals to help resolve health care staffing shortages in the region.
- The WIB participated in the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation's (MCEDC) Careers in our County program. The program was designed to provide career information to McHenry County high school sophomores to give them an idea of what type of careers may be available to them when they graduate high school.
- A very strong relationship is continuing to be developed with both the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and McHenry County College. This can be evidenced from our cooperation in developing the Welding Boot Camp Program with MCC and our participation with the MCEDC in its Careers in our County program.
- The WIB, on a regional level, completed a Youthfutures Website that is designed to help youth locate providers and programs to help them if they are having specific problems or issues in their life that need to be addressed. E-blasts are periodically made throughout the year to keep agency staff aware of Youthfutures and to get their customers to use this website.
- The WIB staff made timely presentations to its liaison committee, Public Health and Human Services (PH & HS), to update them on Workforce Investment Board news on the local, state, and national level. A presentation on the McHenry County Workforce Center Business Plan was also made to the PH & HS Committee.
- The WIB and the Workforce Network conducted a workforce system orientation for newly elected county board members.

### FY2008 Goals

- Make the WIB a more visible and integral part of economic and workforce development in the county (on-going effort).
- As part of the Workforce Boards of Metro Chicago, the local WIB is working to schedule a meeting this fall regarding the impact of a maturing workforce.
- The WBMC are also planning on hosting a technology industry summit.
- The WIB is also going to study the possibility of adding another industry boot camp.
- The WIB is also going to explore the possibility of developing, in conjunction with MCC, a for credit pre-apprenticeship program for anyone interested in the building trades industry.
- Continue to strengthen the ties with the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and McHenry County College (on-going effort).
- Implement the updated WIB strategic plan.