

Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget Highlights and Goals

Workforce Investment Board

FY2009 Highlights

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the McHenry County Workforce Network (MCWN) are both becoming more visible components of the workforce and economic development system in McHenry County. Our continued participation in the Flexible and Sustainable Training (FAST) Solutions grant the county received is an example of this. MCC is nearing the completion of the application process for this grant.

The update of the State of the Workforce Report/Community Audit (SOW/CA) was completed and a presentation was made to the public. The WIB then had a force field analysis of the SOW/CA done by staff from Centegra (at no cost to the WIB) to determine the next steps on how best to use the results of the SOW/CA. Three committees were formed to take those next steps regarding Business Forums, Training, and Marketing.

The WIB has continued to strengthen its coordination and cooperation with McHenry County College and the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation.

FY2010 Goals

An ongoing goal of the Workforce Investment Board is to continue to become a more visible and integral part of the economic and workforce development system in the county.

Complete the Flexible and Sustainable Training (FAST) Solutions application to receive earmark funds to develop other boot camp programs based on the welding program that was so successful a few years ago.

To follow up on the next steps from the State of the Workforce /Community Audit goals from the Force Field Analysis (i.e. hold a business forum to engage the private sector to determine their employment needs, to continue to improve training programs to meet the workforce needs of the businesses in McHenry County, and to market the programs and successes of the WIB and the Workforce Network).

With the increase in funds from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the WIB plans to reengage with the Workforce Boards of Metro Chicago (WBMC) and become more active in regional workforce efforts. One such effort (although still in the planning stages) is to do a study regarding the work readiness of the high school students in the Chicago Metro area with our own report dealing with McHenry County. Another proposed goal is to explore how the WBMC could become more involved with the building trades regarding "green" occupations and training. Apply for Federal funds to support "green training" initiatives.

As part of the WBMC to work closely with the Metro Economic Growth Alliance (MEGA) of Chicago. This group represents the economic development agencies (McHenry County Economic Development Corporation is a member) for the Chicago metro area.