

Chester J. Culver, Governor

Patty Judge, Lt. Governor

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## Workforce Investment Act

The Workforce Investment Act Program is delivered through service providers located in Iowa's fifteen regions and is directed locally by Regional Workforce Investment Boards. The Division provides state-level administration and oversight of all WIA activities. The program provides services to adults, dislocated workers and youth.

*Adults:* The Adult Program provides employment and training services to anyone 18 years of age and older. The goals are to increase their employment, earnings, occupational skills attainment and job retention. Services are provided through One-Stop Career Centers. There are three levels of service:

- Core services - includes outreach, job search and placement assistance, and labor market information available to all job seekers;
- Intensive services - Includes more comprehensive assessments, development of individual employment plans and counseling and career planning; and
- Training services - Customers are linked to job opportunities in their communities, including both occupational training and training in basic skills. Participants use an "individual training account" to select an appropriate training program from a qualified training provider.

The funding is limited and, therefore, places a priority for the provision of intensive and training services to adults who are low-income or welfare recipients. During Federal Program Year (PY) 08, the WIA adult program served 1,047 participants at a cost of \$2,422,783, or \$2,314 per participant. Adult participants achieving employment after program participation earned an average of \$11,324 for the second and third quarters after exit. After leaving the program, 78.8% of the participants became employed and 94.3% retained their employment for at least six months.

*Dislocated Workers:* The Dislocated Worker Program provides assistance for re-entry into the workforce for individuals that have lost their employment due to plant/business closings or downsizing. Dislocated workers are eligible for the same services as those served through the adult program. In PY08, The WIA Dislocated Worker Formula program served 2,913 participants at a cost of \$4,119,421, or \$1,414 per participant. After leaving the program, about 89.8% of the participants became employed, and 96.9% retained their job for at least six months. The average earnings for the dislocated workers in the second and third quarters after participation were \$14,402.

*Youth:* The WIA Youth Program is a comprehensive youth development program. With the support of the Department of Labor, many regions across the State are targeting the out of school youth to provide services and support that will lead to occupational training and gainful employment. Once again, the limited funding is requiring creative planning and collaboration with partner agencies by the regions to develop and provide the services for youth. During PY08, 447 Older Youth (aged 19 to 21) participated in the program. During PY08, 799 Younger Youth (aged 14 to 18) participated in the program. Total costs for the Youth program were \$3,277,062, or \$2,630 per participant.