



Board Report

April 23, 2025

Participant Service Goals for PY'24

Program	Regional Plan Goals	Carry-In Clients PY'23	New PY'24 Clients (7/1/24-3/31/25)	Total	Goal %
WIOA Adult	544	111	281	392	72%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	106	35	36	71	67%
WIOA Out of School Youth	139	20	41	61	44%
WIOA In School Youth	35	11	11	22	63%

For Program Year 2024 (7/1/24-6/30/25), Region 8 has increased customer enrollments largely due to enrolling more clients from RESEA, QUEST and WRG Programs. Staff are continuing to work on meeting PY'24 goals. Our education, training and job placement services have also helped a lot of participants successfully achieve their career goals, which is reflected by the recent success story highlighted below:

Andrew Mann came to the Daviess County WorkOne in December 2024. Andrew was a single parent who felt he needed to find a job and move into his own place to raise his infant daughter. Andrew possessed a high school diploma, but did not have any further education that would assist him with finding employment. Although he held a couple of part-time jobs while in high school, Andrew found that working took his focus away from his studies. Knowing that he definitely needed a high school diploma, he quit those jobs to concentrate on school. Andrew had heard about WorkOne services and learned they could help pay for certain short-term trainings.

Career Advisor Crystal Venters enrolled Andrew in the WIOA Youth and QUEST programs to provide career counseling, training and job placement services. She helped Andrew conduct career research to identify a profession that would provide a sufficient income to support himself and his child. Andrew was most interested in getting his CDL-A and he believed a career as a truck driver would provide the best income opportunity for his situation. Andrew chose to attend CDL training at Wagler Education and Training Center where he completed his training in December 2024.

When testing day came, Andrew was well prepared and passed on the first try. He obtained his CDL license on 1/2/2025. Andrew immediately began job searching with the assistance of Career Advisor Venters and obtained employment with Commercial Transport on 1/21/2025 earning \$22.50 per hour as a truck driver. Since starting his new job, Andrew has been able to obtain an apartment where he now resides with his daughter.



Region 8 County Unemployment Rates

County	October	November	December	January	February
Brown	3.6%	3.8%	3.9%	4.7%	4.5%
Daviess	3.0%	3.2%	2.8%	3.5%	3.4%
Greene	4.7%	5.0%	4.9%	5.4%	5.0%
Lawrence	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%	5.0%	4.6%
Martin	3.1%	3.2%	3.0%	3.7%	3.8%
Monroe	3.9%	4.1%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%
Orange	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	5.0%	4.8%
Owen	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	5.0%	4.7%

As of February 2025, Indiana's unemployment rate was 4.3%, which was higher than the national average of 4.1%. Brown, Greene, Lawrence, Orange, and Owen counties were higher than the state average and Daviess, Martin, and Monroe counties were below the state average. In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate of 63.7% was higher than the national rate of 62.4%. This rate is the percentage of Hoosiers ages 16 years and older who are either working or actively looking for work. Those not in the labor force primarily include students, retirees and other non-working populations, such as individuals unable to work due to a disability or illness, or adults responsible for their family's childcare needs.

Region 8 staff continue to answer basic UI questions and help customers use WorkOne computers to file UI claims as needed. Customers who need additional assistance are required to call or email the UI Contact Center at DWD. Customers at the Bloomington and Linton WorkOne locations have the option of using a designated phone to speak directly with an Unemployment Specialist at the UI Contact Center. Customers have the option to file by phone if they do not have access to a computer or smart phone to file online.

RESEA – Update

The Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program targets unemployed individuals who are most likely to exhaust UI benefits and provides career services designed to help them get back to work more quickly. In March 2024, DWD collaborated with NASWA (National Association of State Workforce Agencies) to complete an assessment of Wagner-Peyser and RESEA service delivery. Based on that review, DWD made the determination that the RESEA program would no longer be contracted to Regional Workforce Boards throughout the state, but would instead be operated by DWD staff. In January 2025, Region 8 began serving as a pilot region to transition the program to Wagner-Peyser funded State staff. Region 8 management staff assisted current RESEA funded workers to transition to other positions to ensure they remained employed at the end of the pilot period. By April 1, all RESEA funding and operational responsibility was transitioned fully to DWD. The RESEA process for customers currently remains the same, but there are new options for virtual service delivery and a change in the claimant selection rate is being considered. DWD intends to transition the entire state to this new RESEA process by December of 2025.

Business Services Updates

WARN/Non-WARN Notices and Rapid Response Activities

There were no WARN notices issued in this quarter.

Business Services Activities

- From July 2024 – March 2025, The Region 8 Business Services Team worked with a total of **163 Distinct Employers** to provide WIOA Business Services. **1,185 Business Contacts** were made with those employers.
- During the last quarter, the Region 8 Business Services Team and local office staff have participated in various activities throughout the region. A few of those included:
 - Simtra BioPharma Solutions Mini Job Fair at the Bloomington WorkOne
 - Martin County Economic Development & Workforce Meeting
 - RADIUS Annual Stakeholder Event
 - School Career Fairs the following locations: Eastern Greene High School, Bloomington High School North, Bloomington High School South, Brown County High School, Mitchell High School, Owen Valley High School, Edgewood High School and Paoli High School.

Highlight: Owen Valley College/Career Military Fair

Owen Valley High School's 11/12 JAG program orchestrated a highly successful College/Career/Military Fair on 4/3/25. The student-led initiative involved contacting and registering 47 businesses, colleges, trade schools, and military branches, as well as an additional 8 businesses solely for senior mock interviews. The JAG program was also responsible for advertising and meticulously planning the event, which saw every OVHS student attend and every senior participate in a mock interview. During the fair, JAG students actively managed all aspects, from escorting guests and providing refreshments to efficiently moving the student body through the various presentations and interview opportunities.



GRANT UPDATES



Next Level Jobs: Workforce Ready Grant and Employer Training Grant

Workforce Ready Grant

For Program Year 2024 (7/1/24 - 6/30/25) - Region 8 received an initial allocation of \$750,000 of WRG funding. The region requested and received an additional \$175,000 on 4/14/25. A total of \$92,500 is budgeted for administrative costs, and the remaining \$832,500 has been allocated for customer tuition assistance. As of 3/31/25, the region has enrolled 164 students into training programs and \$694,000 of tuition funds have been obligated. 111 students have completed training, 103 have earned a certification, 34 customers are currently still attending training and 19 have failed to successfully complete their class.

Success Story:

Debra came to the Bloomington WorkOne office in search of help with starting a new career. Although she had been unemployed since 2022, Debra had previous experience with assembly work and had been employed as an uncertified medical receptionist. Career Advisor Kimi Bing provided career counseling to help Debra assess her needs and determine her interests. Debra was very interested in working as a CCMA since it would provide her with a livable wage, but she did not want to attend a long-term training program. Career Advisor Bing assisted her with career research for CCMA and provided potential training options for this occupation. In September 2024, WorkOne provided Debra with QUEST funding to attend CCMA training provided by Broadview Learning Center. Debra completed the program and earned her certification on 12/13/24. Career Advisor Bing assisted Debra with updating her resume and completing job searches. As a result, Debra was hired with Monroe County Hospital as a Patient Care Technician. Debra now earns \$18.50 per hour and is happy to be able to support herself.

Employer Training Grant

Region 8 received \$750,000 for Program Year 2024 (7/1/24-12/31/24). A total of \$75,000 is budgeted for administrative costs and the additional \$675,000 will be used to reimburse Region 8 employers for eligible employee training costs. Region 8 has been given the opportunity to request additional funds if needed. To date, almost \$650,000 has been obligated but funds for additional employer reimbursements are still available. Businesses who would like more information about how to apply for ETG funding should contact Gail Mitchell (gmitchell@vinu.edu) or Randy Wells (rwells@vinu.edu). Region 8 employers find the ETG program to be beneficial and they continue to express a need for continued future ETG funding. The following note of appreciation and support for the ETG program was recently submitted to Region 8 staff by Warrant Technologies:

"On behalf of Warrant Technologies, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to you both for your exceptional support of Indiana's employers and your administration of Indiana's Employer Training Grant (ETG) program. Your tireless efforts and unwavering support have made a significant impact, particularly for a small Indiana businesses like Warrant Technologies. It is critical for us to develop our workforce and enhance professional and technical skills. Your dedication to ensuring companies received the assistance they needed has strengthened Indiana's businesses, workforce, and economy. Your willingness to go above and beyond has not only supported employers across key industry sectors but also allowed Warrant to meet the technical demands of NSW Crane effectively. Additionally, your efforts have directly improved the lives of our workforce, helping to build a more skilled and capable community. The Employer Training Grant is a critical resource for Indiana, providing much-needed support for workforce training, hiring, and retention. The program's ability to reimburse employers for training costs has been a game-changer for Warrant and empowering us to grow our talent and retain skilled workers. Your administration of this program has significantly contributed to our success. Thank you once again for your exceptional work and commitment. It is through your efforts that programs like the ETG are not only effective but transformative for businesses like ours."

CHE Intermediary Capacity Building Grant

In June 2024, Region 8 received \$240,000 from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to serve as an intermediary to increase and strengthen student /school connections with employers and postsecondary institutions. Region 8 collaborated with Regional Opportunity Initiatives and Southern Indiana Education Center to serve the 27 school districts throughout the region. WorkOne Career Advisors are providing individual and small groups of students with informative and productive Career Discovery Meetings. Students receive a packet that contains information about their areas of interest as well as career planning tools, websites and organizations that can serve as resources as they make college and career decisions. Students also have access to WorkOne Career Advisors to provide additional information or career guidance as requested. To date, Region 8 has provided almost 900 students with Career Discovery Meetings and additional meetings are being scheduled through the end of May. Staff will continue to meet with students and provide services as requested until the end of the grant period in June 2025.

Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant

In April 2023, the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board received \$547,000 through a DOL sponsored grant acquired by the DWD Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships. The Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) funding is intended to expand the number of programs and apprentices; diversify the industries that utilize Registered Apprenticeship (RAP); and increase access to, and completion of, RAPs for underrepresented populations and underserved communities. The goal for these participants will be a nationally recognized credential. The grant period is effective from 7/1/22 through 5/15/26.

RAP and certified Pre-Apprenticeship participants can receive funding for Related Technical Instruction (RTI), On-the-Job Learning (OJL) and Supportive Services (SS). Due to program requirements and other circumstances causing unintentional competition among entities within the region, it was difficult to enroll individuals as anticipated. In August 2024, DWD requested to move a portion of this grant to another region that needed additional funds. Region 8 agreed to move approximately \$296,000 to assist in this process. To date, Region 8 has funded 36 pre-apprentices and 45 apprentices. Region 8 has continued to enroll new apprentices and it is anticipated that all remaining ABA funds will be spent by 5/15/26.

Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Grant

In July 2022, Indiana applied for the Department of Labor's Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Grant. This National Dislocated Worker grant enables individuals who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic inequities that the pandemic exacerbated, to enter, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs in growth industries including infrastructure, environment and climate, and the care economy. As of 6/1/24, Region 8 received funding in the amount of \$769,500. When Region 8's QUEST grant ended on 1/30/25, all available QUEST funds had been spent. During the grant period, 249 individuals were enrolled in QUEST. Of those enrolled, 128 customers attended training and 121 of those individuals earned their credential.

JAG Update



Region 8 JAG has been very successful with program expansion throughout the region and we are now focused on program outcomes. We are currently on track to meet our 6 of 6 program outcome goals for the 2023-2024 class, which consist of the following metrics: Graduation Rate (90%), Job Placement including Military (60%), Total in Full-time Jobs (75%), Total in Full-Time Outcomes (75%), Further Education Rate (35%) and Connection Rate (95%).

JAG Project Highlight – Linton Stockton High School

Linton-Stockton JAG students collected over 180 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. In May, students will head up to Indianapolis to deliver the tabs to them. Students collected tabs at school and all of the basketball games during February. Students partnered with Rader Media Sports, the school's sports broadcasting organization, who announced the collection during games. Four of Rader Media Sports' premier sponsors served as collection sites throughout the community. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to see local businesses supporting their community service project.



JAG Project Highlight – Washington High School

Washington High School JAG Specialist Caryn Miller took her students for an employer visit to Toyota in Princeton, IN. Students learned about manufacturing cars and took a tour of the facility. Students were excited to see individuals working with technology and robots to complete a finished vehicle!

