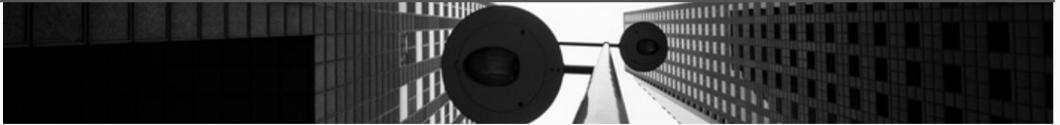


JANUARY 2026

SOUTHERN 14

NEWSLETTER



Success Story

A young mother, pregnant with her second child, came to WADI seeking assistance. Her son was enrolled in Head Start, and she was enrolled as a pregnant mom in the Early Head Start Program. After working with HS/EHS staff, she was referred to the CSBG program, where she began employment with the agency through the CSBG Work Experience program. During this time, she also worked diligently to complete her GED. Taking her ambitions further, she enrolled in a local community college to become a Certified Medical Assistant.

OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: March 10th
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: SIC Building G or Via Zoom

BOARD OFFICE:

- Open M-TR: 8-5
- PO BOX 186 Carmi, IL 62821
- Phone: 618-382-5024

The Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provided the means for her to attend college by covering the costs of books and tuition. Her family also received support through LIHEAP and the food pantry during this period. Today, she is employed at a local healthcare center. She shared, "Being a part of WADI has been so beneficial for my family. Not only with education for my children, but I've gained skills through employment."

This story exemplifies WADI's mission-delivering real solutions that help hard-working individuals achieve self-sufficiency and move forward.
Submitted By: Ryan Trueblood, WADI



WADI MONTHLY UPDATE

Ryan Trueblood attended the Area Planning Council meeting last week via Zoom at OCC. He also discussed WADI's partnership with IECC on sending students through the Skillforge Lab at OCC. WADI currently has 7 WEX participants and 32 Career Education students. Ryan Trueblood will be attending NCAP leadership training in Orlando next week. WADI is working on their final monitoring responses and felt they had a rather successful DCEO monitoring this year. WADI career planners are working on their performance measures for the second quarter. This process is ongoing but they hope to increase their performance for the PY 25 year.

SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

SDC is adding new & routing returning students entering the Spring 2026 semester. Most classes started on January 12th but there are short term programs that start in February & March which include CNA, Phlebotomy, and EKG and will depend on at which SCC extension the classes will be held. SDC has started putting on workers for the State WEX funds, which will be enough for about 7 Adult workers. There are 2 employed at this time; one in Alexander County and the other in Pulaski County. The process is ongoing. For the Out of School Youth WEX, SDC has 4 employed. There are 2 in Pope County, 1 in Hardin County, and 1 in Alexander County.



CHANGES?

- Have you moved?
- Changed phone number?
- New email?
- Please notify the board office at boffice@so14lwib.com with any changes
- It is extremely important to let us know because of travel and communication! Thanks!!

SOUTHERN 14 UPDATE

Southern 14 has began MOU negotiations between required program partner's human and financial commitments to make their services accessible and to share in the cost of operating the local workforce delivery system like our One-Stop Center in Carmi. Decisions such as what services can be accessed at the One-Stop, locations where those services are available, each partner's method in delivering those services, the role the One-Stop Operator plays, referrals between all partners, and partner's commitments to share in the cost are just a few of the decisions that are made during the process. The entire process will continue until its May 30th submission deadline.

WIOA requires the state, regional, and local workforce plans to be developed in concert with core and required partners and stakeholders. Our planning process has begun with our first meeting being held January 27th from 12-3 in Marion. The planning requirements that are included in the WIOA state guidance outline that each LWIA must submit a Local Plan and each EDR submit a Regional Plan. This process will continue until its March 31st submission deadline.

PY 25 Budget

Formula Funds		PY25 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)	
	Total Budget	Expended 7/1/24 - 6/30/25	Remaining Budget
WADI			
In School Youth	56,830.48	13,921.44	42,909.04
Out of School Youth	321,021.55	82,783.27	238,238.28
Adult	606,754.81	240,774.19	365,980.62
Dislocated Worker	235,367.93	10,203.39	225,164.54
Total WADI	1,219,974.77	347,682.29	872,292.48
SDC			
In School Youth	63,666.40	26,542.76	37,123.64
Out of School Youth	289,967.37	33,925.37	256,042.00
Adult	367,353.08	227,521.36	139,831.72
Dislocated Worker	196,143.22	28,106.44	168,036.78
Total SDC	917,130.07	316,095.93	601,034.14



Release date of January 15, 2026

INFORMATION:

- Each issue you will see rotating information and data to keep you all informed in different ways!
- Like to see something included in the monthly newsletter?
- Email boffice@so14lwib.com

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

Labor Market Area	Nov 2025	Nov 2024	Over-the-Year Change
Carbondale Area			
Jackson County	4.9%	4.0%	0.9
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	5.2%	4.2%	1.0
Hamilton County	4.6%	3.8%	0.8
Hardin County	5.8%	4.7%	1.1
Pope County	5.4%	4.8%	0.6
Saline County	4.6%	4.0%	0.6
White County	4.7%	4.0%	0.7
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	4.0%	3.4%	0.6
Lawrence County	5.0%	4.2%	0.8
Richland County	4.0%	3.3%	0.7
Wabash County	4.1%	3.2%	0.9
Wayne County	4.6%	3.8%	0.8
Regional Counties			
Alexander County	6.1%	6.0%	0.1
Franklin County	5.2%	4.6%	0.6
Jefferson County	5.3%	4.4%	0.9
Johnson County	5.2%	4.3%	0.9
Massac County	4.2%	3.8%	0.4
Perry County	5.3%	4.4%	0.9
Pulaski County	6.3%	6.0%	0.3
Union County	4.5%	3.8%	0.7
Williamson County	4.4%	3.8%	0.6
Cities			
Carbondale City	5.4%	4.7%	0.7
Other Areas			
LWIA 23	4.5%	3.8%	0.7
LWIA 24	4.3%	3.7%	0.6
LWIA 25	4.9%	4.1%	0.8
LWIA 26	4.7%	4.0%	0.7
Southern EDR	4.8%	4.1%	0.7

Southern Illinois Highlights

Carbondale Area

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +25 jobs in November 2025, compared to November 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Construction (+150), Private Education-Health Services (+150), Natural Resources-Mining (+25) and Other Services (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Information and Manufacturing.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-150), Financial Activities (-50), Government (-50), Leisure-Hospitality (-25) and Professional-Business Services (-25) sectors.

Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +150 jobs in November 2025, compared to November 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+175), Financial Activities (+50), Natural Resources-Mining (+50), Construction (+25) and Professional-Business Services (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Government, Information and Trade-Transportation-Utilities.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Leisure-Hospitality (-100), Manufacturing (-25) and Other Services (-25) sectors.

Olney - Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -375 jobs in November 2025, compared to November 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+100).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Information and Professional-Business Services.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-100), Financial Activities (-75), Leisure-Hospitality (-50), Manufacturing (-50), Other Services (-50), Construction (-25), Government (-25) and Natural Resources-Mining (-25) sectors.