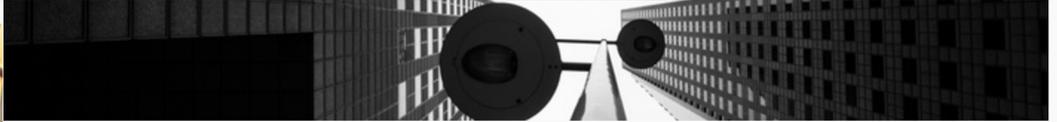


FEBRUARY 2026

SOUTHERN 14

# NEWSLETTER



## Success Story

Shyan Courtney came to Wabash Area Development, Inc in May of 2025. She was inquiring about the WIOA Work Experience Program and how we could help her gain office and interpersonal skills in the local workforce. Shyan was determined as eligible for program services. She was interested in working at Safe Haven in Mt. Carmel, IL. Safe Haven is a 16-bed homeless shelter for women and children. She completed a six month Work Experience contract there. During her employment, she learned a wide range of office skills, phone etiquette, typing, sending emails, creating social media posts for the organization, using Microsoft computer programs, and keeping track of donations from various businesses. Shyan also learned interpersonal skills such as dealing with customers in high stress situations, completing inquiry forms for potential new residents, and assisted residents that were entering and leaving the shelter. One goal of the Work Experience is to obtain employment after program completion. So Shyan was very happy and considered a successful participant when Safe Haven decided to hire her on as a full-time employee.

Submitted By: Ryan Trueblood and Nelda Booker, WADI

### 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



## WADI MONTHLY UPDATE

We are finalizing our plans for the Healthcare Professions Pre-Apprenticeship. WADI will be working with Fairfield Memorial Hospital and Frontier Community College to offer this opportunity to 6 individuals eligible for WIOA out of school youth. The individuals will receive hands on training, taught by a FCC nursing instructor, and work experience with several departments in the hospital. We plan for this project to be 40 hours for 8 weeks at \$15 per hour. The estimated total cost is \$40,999, \$34,166 YOS and \$6,833 Adult. We hope to have an informational meeting for perspective students before the end of March. .

## SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

Spring 2026 semester classes started on January 12 but there are short term programs that start in February & March which include CNA, Phlebotomy, CDL, and EKG. SDC currently has 43 enrolled for the Spring so far with 15 as new enrollees. They are putting on WEX workers for the State WEX funds which will be enough for about 7 Adult workers. There are 3 employed at this time; one in Alexander County and 2 in Pulaski County. The process is ongoing. For the Out of School Youth WEX, we have 4 employed. There are 2 in Pope County, 1 in Union County, and 1 in Alexander County. The process is ongoing also.



## CHANGES?

- Have you moved?
- Changed phone number?
- New email?
- Please notify the board office at [boffice@so14lwib.com](mailto: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 completed its MOU negotiations. The MOU will be discussed at the March 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting. We have also posted the Local Plan on our website for public comment. The Regional Plan is posted on the Man-Tra-Con website for public comment. The Local Plan will be discussed at the March 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Program updates are occurring in IWDS and Jessica is trying to get as many updates completed before the switch to IWDS 2.0 in July, to make for an easier transition. This process takes a lot of time and coordination! She would like to give a shout out to Lori Cox and Blake Goforth for always assisting her in this process. IWDS 2.0 user testing is ongoing with official training set for May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Programmatic and Fiscal Monitoring occurs quarterly at Southern 14 for our service providers. The dates for the upcoming monitoring are set for March 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Big things are happening at the board office as well. We are working on better coordination of services. One project that is currently moving forward is our coordination with Adult Education. We are working closely with our partners to provide wrap around services, incentives, and progression to employment for GED students.

# PY 25 Performance

Filter: PY 2025 > Year to Date > Title I > Adult

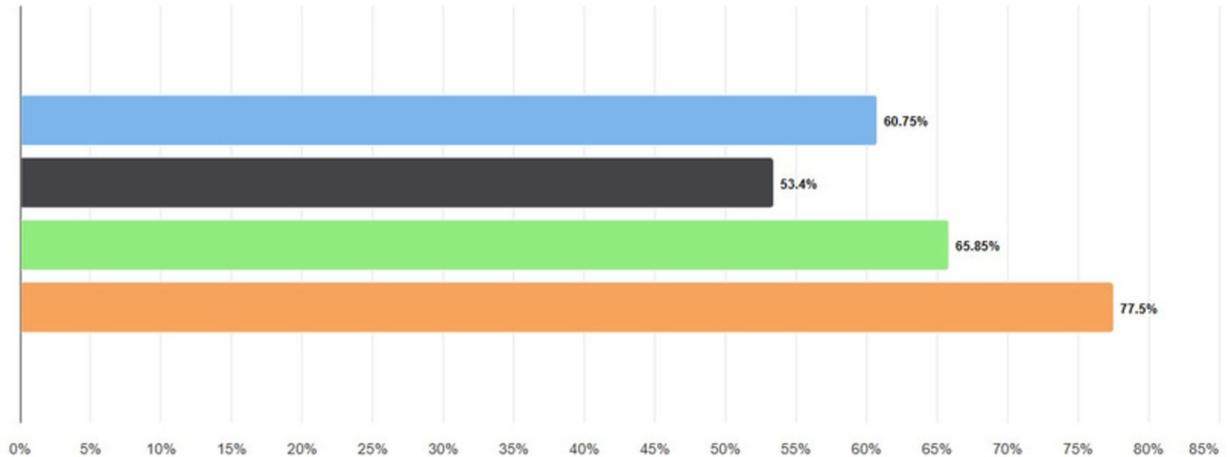
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## LWIA Comparison

Median Earnings will only be shown on the table view, not the graph view.

● Employment Rate Q2 ● Employment Rate Q4 ● Credential Attainment Rate ● Measurable Skill Gains

LWIA 26 - Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board Inc



- Release date of January 29, 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	Dec 2025	Dec 2024	Over-the-Year Change
<b>Carbondale Area</b>			
Jackson County	5.4%	3.9%	1.5
<b>Harrisburg Area</b>			
Gallatin County	5.1%	4.3%	0.8
Hamilton County	5.3%	4.3%	1.0
Hardin County	5.5%	4.0%	1.5
Pope County	5.8%	4.2%	1.6
Saline County	5.0%	3.9%	1.1
White County	5.2%	3.7%	1.5
<b>Olney - Mt. Carmel Area</b>			
Edwards County	4.8%	3.4%	1.4
Lawrence County	5.8%	4.1%	1.7
Richland County	4.2%	3.1%	1.1
Wabash County	4.5%	3.1%	1.4
Wayne County	4.8%	3.8%	1.0
<b>Regional Counties</b>			
Alexander County	6.4%	6.1%	0.3
Franklin County	5.6%	4.5%	1.1
Jefferson County	5.6%	4.1%	1.5
Johnson County	5.8%	4.4%	1.4
Massac County	4.5%	3.6%	0.9
Perry County	5.6%	4.5%	1.1
Pulaski County	6.8%	6.2%	0.6
Union County	5.2%	4.4%	0.8
Williamson County	4.8%	3.6%	1.2
<b>Cities</b>			
Carbondale City	6.1%	4.4%	1.7
<b>Other Areas</b>			
LWIA 23	5.0%	3.7%	1.3
LWIA 24	4.6%	3.6%	1.0
LWIA 25	5.3%	4.0%	1.3
LWIA 26	5.1%	4.0%	1.1
Southern EDR	5.2%	4.0%	1.2

## Southern Illinois Highlights

### Carbondale Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -25 jobs in December 2025, compared to December 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+125), Construction (+100), Natural Resources-Mining (+25) and Other Services (+25).

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

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

### Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +50 jobs in December 2025, compared to December 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+125), Construction (+50), Natural Resources-Mining (+50) and Financial Activities (+25).

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

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Leisure-Hospitality (-125), Manufacturing (-50), Other Services (-50) and Information (-25) sectors.

### Olney - Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -400 jobs in December 2025, compared to December 2024.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+50).

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), Natural Resources-Mining (-50), Other Services (-50), Construction (-25) and Government (-25) sectors.