

MARCH 2025

SOUTHERN 14

NEWSLETTER



Success Story

Rhonda is a single mother to a 16-year-old daughter. Rhonda and her daughter live in a rural area in Hardin County but at the time did not have permanent housing. Rhonda was barely getting by due to the hours she was working. She really desired to have full-time employment. She and her daughter had been staying with someone but she hoped to soon find them a permanent home.

She started working for Shawnee Development through the Work Experience program in August 2024 and completed the program in October of 2024. She then converted over to the CSBG Department. Rhonda recently applied for the county coordinator position for Hardin/Pope county. She really has been a great asset to Shawnee Development Council. Some of the activities she has been such a big help in coordinating are organizing the food pantry and helping move the outreach office into a different location.

"This program really helped me become financially stable to be able to support my daughter, and I through the times of the economy," Rhonda stated. Rhonda's career planner stated that she really thrived and bloomed through the Work Experience program and she looks forward to seeing the progress she will make in the CSBG Department.

"Not only do they help someone become employed they coach them and they also counsel them. The career planners assist you by referring you places if they don't have the answers too," Rhonda stated. "I still get to do what I love best and that is serving my community. I get to speak to the day in an day out participants that live in the county who always brought me so much Joy", Rhonda also said. She is what Michele, Rhonda's career planner calls a success!!

Submitted By: Michele Hunsaker WEX Coordinator

OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: June 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

WADI has 15 students on track to graduate this spring semester including 10 nursing students, 2 criminal justice students, 1 diesel tech student, 1 early childhood student, and 1 business management certificate student. They also have had 2 CDL students get their licenses, and one other should be getting his this month. WADI is starting a WEX participant for Bryan Tomms Farms in Carmi. They also have a potential WEX outreach worker for the Wayne County Office. These two should exhaust all of their 23 WEX funds. WADI is currently working diligently on surpassing their performance goals for those who have exited.

SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

Shawnee Community College started on January 13th and Southeastern Illinois College started on the 14th. SDC has 12 new students enrolled. Currently, SDC has two Work Experience students enrolled in the Quest Grant. SDC has one enrolled in the Out of School Youth program. They also are awaiting a background check to place another Work Experience on the State Grant. On February 6th, WIOA staff attended the SDC Safety Meeting. On February 24th, staff also attended two Zoom meetings. One of the meetings was with Man-Tra-Con and the other was with CEJA. In March, the board office will be conducting their quarterly monitoring. SDC WIOA staff will attend a job fair at SCC in April and the Workforce Summit in May.

SOUTHERN 14 UPDATES

We have two new Board Members. Shawn Healy is joining us from Gallatin County. Mr. Healy is with It's Time Solutions. Michael Belford is joining us from Hardin County. Mr. Belford is with Belford's Heating and AC. We still need 2 Board members each for Alexander, Massac, Union and Saline – Those counties have no representation. Also, Edwards and Wabash each have one vacant seat.

We are meeting or exceeding 9 of the 15 performance measures, but the career planners are working hard on those that we are not meeting. A large portion of these measures involve employment after exit so we will have two more quarters of data to improve the performance.

We continue to be busy with incumbent worker projects. We have 11 projects for a total obligation of \$148,556. All but one of those projects is scheduled to be completed by 6/30/25. The majority of the training is safety or leadership related. So far all of the projects have been for employers in Illinois Eastern Community College district, but we are working with Shawnee Community College on a couple of potential projects in their district.



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!!

LWIA 26 Budget

Board Office Budget				
PY24 Approved Budget	288,398.00			
Adjustment for PY23 Carry Forward	21,762.30			
Additional Funding/New Grants	94,384.00			
Revised PY24 Admin Budget	404,544.30			
	Budget	Expended	% Expended	Remaining Budget
SALARIES & BENEFITS	169,252.54	102,492.11	60.6%	66,760.43
RENT/UTILITIES/PHONE	9,700.00	6,707.80	69.2%	2,992.20
OFFICE	27,400.00	16,561.61	60.4%	10,838.39
BOARD TRAVEL/TRAINING	2,500.00	813.05	32.5%	1,686.95
STAFF TRAVEL/TRAINING	8,800.00	3,626.31	41.2%	5,173.69
LEGAL/ACCOUNTING	7,500.00	(233.13)	-3.1%	7,733.13
ADVERTISING/MARKETING	1,000.00	295.92	29.6%	704.08
EQUIPMENT	1,000.00	549.99	55.0%	450.01
MISCELLANEOUS	22,111.32	1,431.51	6.5%	20,679.81
WORKNET CENTER - TRADE	16,442.00	3,945.44	24.0%	12,496.56
INCUMBENT WORKER PROJECTS	138,838.44	51,477.51	37.1%	87,360.93
	404,544.30	136,190.61	33.7%	268,353.69



- Release date of March 21, 2025

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	Jan 2025	Jan 2024	Over-the-Year Change
Carbondale Area			
Jackson County	4.9%	5.5%	-0.6
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	4.7%	5.2%	-0.5
Hamilton County	5.1%	5.7%	-0.6
Hardin County	5.5%	5.7%	-0.2
Pope County	5.1%	5.9%	-0.8
Saline County	4.8%	5.2%	-0.4
White County	4.3%	4.6%	-0.3
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	4.1%	4.6%	-0.5
Lawrence County	4.9%	5.6%	-0.7
Richland County	3.7%	4.3%	-0.6
Wabash County	3.7%	3.7%	0.0
Wayne County	4.4%	4.8%	-0.4
Regional Counties			
Alexander County	7.1%	6.7%	0.4
Franklin County	5.4%	6.0%	-0.6
Jefferson County	4.9%	5.1%	-0.2
Johnson County	5.7%	6.3%	-0.6
Massac County	3.8%	4.4%	-0.6
Perry County	5.6%	5.7%	-0.1
Pulaski County	6.4%	7.4%	-1.0
Union County	5.8%	6.5%	-0.7
Williamson County	4.5%	5.4%	-0.9
Cities			
Carbondale City	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
Other Areas			
LWIA 23	4.5%	5.2%	-0.7
LWIA 24	4.3%	4.9%	-0.6
LWIA 25	4.9%	5.5%	-0.6
LWIA 26	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5
Southern EDR	4.9%	5.4%	-0.5

Southern Illinois Highlights

Carbondale Area

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +1,500 jobs in January 2025, compared to January 2024.

Employment rose among Private Education-Health Services (+600), Government (+600), Leisure-Hospitality (+200), Natural Resources-Mining (+100), Construction (+100) and Retail Trade (+100).

No change was recorded in payrolls in the Manufacturing, Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities, Information, Financial Activities or Professional-Business Services sectors.

Employment declined among employers in Wholesale Trade (-100) and Other Services (-100).

Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -150 jobs in January 2025, compared to January 2024.

Employment rose among Private Education-Health Services (+125), Professional-Business Services (+50), Natural Resources-Mining (+50), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+25) and Construction (+25) employers.

Employment declined among employers in Government (-150), Leisure-Hospitality (-100), Other Services (-75), Manufacturing (-50), Information (-25) and Financial Activities (-25).

Olney - Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -550 jobs in January 2025, compared to January 2024.

Employment rose among Private Education-Health Services (+75) employers.

No change was recorded in payrolls in the Professional-Business Services sector.

Employment declined among employers in Manufacturing (-250), Leisure-Hospitality (-125), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75), Other Services (-50), Construction (-50), Financial Activities (-25) and Natural Resources-Mining (-25).