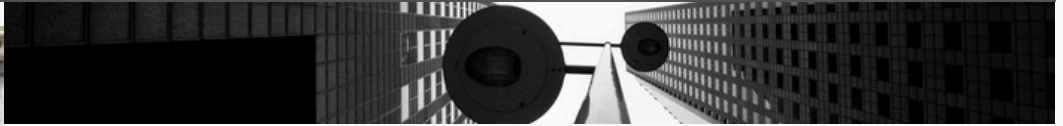


MAY 2026

SOUTHERN 14

# NEWSLETTER



## Success Story

In the winter of 2024, Debora came into the WADI office in McLeansboro for a LIHEAP appointment. During that time, she began talking about how her life had taken a turn for the worse. Her mom and brother got sick and passed away. Also, during this time, her own health was declining due to her need for a hip replacement. She had finally been able to get her hip replaced, but knew she needed to find a new career path. She had always worked in nursing homes or grocery stores and that meant being on her feet. She knew she would be unable to stand for 8 hours a day.

It just so happened that WADI had an open position for a CSBG worker at the Hamilton County front desk. She applied for the position and was found to be eligible. Debora was also told about information on the WIOA program and everything that it offered, including assistance with going back to college and/or work experience. During her 3 months as a CSBG worker, Debora became more interested in what WIOA could offer her. She decided she wanted to participate in the Work Experience Program, which would teach her office skills to assist her in obtaining future employment.

Before her 6 months of work experience was complete, she applied for a position within Head Start and she was accepted. She is currently employed full-time with benefits as an Early Head Start Home Visitor. She has mentioned several times how much her life has positively changed since the day she came into the office for LIHEAP assistance, which in turn led to her new career. She was quoted as saying, "It's been life changing and a God sent miracle."

### OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: June 9th
- 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 is starting two participants at MotoRad in Mount Carmel. They will be completing IT Internships this summer. WADI has also partnered with Fairfield Memorial Hospital and IECC's Business and Industry to offer a Summer Healthcare Pre-Apprenticeship. Five participants have started the Skillforge Maintenance program at IECC. The Board Office, WADI, and Wabash Valley College have started an Incumbent Worker project geared towards helping Head Start employees gain Early Childhood Education certificates. Currently there are 6 nursing, 4 CDL, 1 auto tech, and 1 criminal justice student graduating this month!

## SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

SDC is preparing to enroll participants for the summer semester. The end of the spring semester means there will be those graduating and others who will continue attending classes. There are 2 employed on the State Grant at this time; 1 in Alexander County and 1 in Pulaski County. For the Out of School Youth WEX, SDC has 2 employed at this time; 1 in Massac County, and 1 in Pulaski County. SDC is working on adding about 8 more Out of School Youth on WEX because we still have funding. Career Planners have been contacting schools to find any seniors graduating in May to put on. SDC also has one In-School youth from Pulaski county we are trying to put on as well. One Dislocated Worker is employed in Union county as well. IWDS 2.0 in person trainings start at the end of the month!

## SOUTHERN 14 UPDATE

We have sent out our Requests for Proposals for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. You can see those available on our website at [www.so14lwib.com](http://www.so14lwib.com). These are due June 15, 2026. Performance negotiations will also begin July 1, 2026. Last year, the state implemented a statistical model that will assist us in our negotiations. As we sit right now in PY25 we should meet all the required performance measures! Once those are finalized, I will post our results in an upcoming newsletter. July 1, 2026 is also the release of our new case management system IWDS 2.0. This system is a customer centered approach and should streamline many processes already in place. Along with IWDS 2.0, Illinois WorkNet has established a Universal Referral System which will be a statewide tool designed to make it easier for workforce partners to connect customers to the right services, faster, and with less duplication of information. The idea is a more connected workforce system across the state to assist customers in any office no matter where they enter the the workforce system.



## 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!!

# WE ARE MOVING!

- Southern 14 is moving!
  - Where: SIC Building/Illinois WorkNet Center
  - Physical Address: 1700 College Ave Carmi, IL 62821
  - Mailing Address: PO Box 186 Carmi, IL 62821
  - Phone Number: (618) 382-8869
- Do you need office furniture? Call 618-382-5024 to come and take a look at what all we have for sale!



Released: April 23, 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](mailto:boffice@so14lwib.com)

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

Labor Market Area	Feb 2026	Feb 2025	Over-the-Year Change
<b>Carbondale Area</b>			
Jackson County	5.6%	4.7%	0.9
<b>Harrisburg Area</b>			
Gallatin County	5.1%	4.5%	0.6
Hamilton County	5.8%	4.5%	1.3
Hardin County	5.7%	4.8%	0.9
Pope County	6.8%	4.3%	2.5
Saline County	5.1%	4.3%	0.8
White County	6.2%	4.4%	1.8
<b>Olney - Mt. Carmel Area</b>			
Edwards County	11.5%	4.1%	7.4
Lawrence County	5.5%	4.0%	1.5
Richland County	4.7%	3.4%	1.3
Wabash County	5.0%	3.5%	1.5
Wayne County	6.2%	3.9%	2.3
<b>Regional Counties</b>			
Alexander County	6.5%	6.6%	-0.1
Franklin County	5.8%	5.1%	0.7
Jefferson County	6.0%	4.6%	1.4
Johnson County	5.9%	5.2%	0.7
Massac County	4.6%	3.7%	0.9
Perry County	5.7%	4.9%	0.8
Pulaski County	7.1%	6.1%	1.0
Union County	5.8%	5.1%	0.7
Williamson County	5.0%	4.1%	0.9
<b>Cities</b>			
Carbondale City	5.9%	5.2%	0.7
<b>Other Areas</b>			
LWIA 23	5.1%	4.0%	1.1
LWIA 24	4.7%	3.9%	0.8
LWIA 25	5.5%	4.6%	0.9
LWIA 26	5.8%	4.5%	1.3
Southern EDR	5.6%	4.5%	1.1

## Southern Illinois Highlights

### Carbondale Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -400 jobs in February 2026, compared to February 2025.

Employment gains were posted in Construction (+175), Government (+100) and Leisure-Hospitality (+75).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Natural Resources-Mining and Other Services.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-425), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-150), Financial Activities (-50), Professional-Business Services (-50), Information (-25) and Manufacturing (-25) sectors.

### Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -275 jobs in February 2026, compared to February 2025.

Employment gains were posted in Construction (+50), Government (+25) and Leisure-Hospitality (+25).

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

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-300), Natural Resources-Mining (-100) and Information (-25) sectors.

### Olney - Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -850 jobs in February 2026, compared to February 2025.

Employment gains were posted in Natural Resources-Mining (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Construction, Financial Activities, Information and Other Services.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Manufacturing (-450), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-150), Private Education-Health Services (-125), Leisure-Hospitality (-50), Professional-Business Services (-50) and Government (-25) sectors.