

No Worker Left Behind

Report for the Legislature
March 1, 2009

In compliance with Public Act 251 of 2008 we present this interim report on the distribution of \$15,000,000 general fund/general purpose (GF/GP) dollars appropriated to the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Initiative.

The focal point of No Worker Left Behind is a free tuition program with a three-year goal of helping 100,000 un- and underemployed workers get the right skills and credentials for new economy jobs. No Worker Left Behind provides up to \$5,000 per year for 2 years (\$10,000 total) for tuition at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program. Eligible Michigan residents include:

- Individuals currently unemployed;
- Individuals who have received notice of termination or layoff; and
- Employed individuals with a family income of under \$40,000 per year.

Introduction

As the national and state economies continue to weaken and the job market becomes tighter, the need for education and training through NWLB becomes more acute. Since launching NWLB in August 2007, the ranks of the unemployed in Michigan have grown from 362,000 to 519,000 in December 2008; an increase of 43%. This huge influx of unemployed individuals puts a continually increasing demand on the systems and funding in place to serve them.

Realizing education is a means to securing meaningful employment, to date over 58,000 people have enrolled through the NWLB free tuition program. The volume of people visiting the Michigan Works! Agencies (MWA) continues to increase with the rise in unemployment. To accommodate the demand, many locations have created waiting lists to control the flow of individuals into their centers; ensuring quality service once they start the NWLB process.

Because of the increasing demand and limited funding, a great deal of thought went into determining how best to distribute the GF/GP funding allocated to NWLB under the parameters set by legislature.

Allocating the \$15,000,000 GF/GP funding (see tables for specific amounts)

\$2 million Awarded by formula to Michigan Works! Agencies (Policy Issuance (PI) 08-17). Specific allocations were determined using the WIA Dislocated Worker formula; targeting funding to areas most in need while ensuring all areas of the state received a portion of the GF/GP funding. (Chart 1)

\$7 million Available via a proposal submission process (P.I. 08-20). To qualify MWAs submit written proposals detailing why they need funding under either of the following two conditions:

- 1) A demonstrated need for additional funding (all available funding is expended or committed) or;
- 2) Their area is planning to undertake an innovative project that includes the training of NWLB eligible individuals. To qualify under this condition, MWA's must detail why other funding could not or should not be used for the project. Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis. (Chart 2)

\$1 million Awarded as an incentive for MWAs enrolling individuals into longer-term training leading to an associate's degree or higher or to MWAs that committed to making significant improvements to their web sites (Policy Issuance 08-22). Because the NWLB initiative encourages MWAs to enroll participants into longer term training, the demand for the training incentive, \$10,000 per qualified individual enrolled, was significantly more than available funding. Final awards were determined on a prorated basis as described in the policy issuance. (Chart 2)

Note: All of the MWAs that applied for funding to improve the informational value of their websites with respect to NWLB will receive a \$5,000 reward if their improvements meet criteria detailed in the policy issuance by March 1, 2009.

\$2.5 million Awarded through a competitive proposal process for Adult Learning Demonstration Grants. The purpose of the demonstration is to increase the number of adult learners with the basic skills necessary to participate and succeed in NWLB funded post-secondary education and training. (Chart 3)

\$2.5 million Awarded to community colleges and other public associate's degree granting institutions through a competitive proposal process. Awards will be provided to institutions demonstrating an innovative approach to training delivery or other innovation that expands high-demand programming opportunities for NWLB participants. The Request for Proposal package has been released with proposals due back by March 20, 2009. The innovations grants were very popular in the first year of NWLB and there were many more qualified innovations than funding allowed. A similar response can be expected this year.

To date, none of the \$15,000,000 general fund/general purpose appropriation has specifically gone towards training for food stamp recipients.

Funding Summary and Current Balance in Work Project Account

Chart 1

Funding Distribution Process	Beginning Balance	Expended or Obligated	Current Balance
Allocated by Formula	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0
Allocated by Proposal	\$7,000,000	\$5,226,880	\$1,773,120
MWA Performance Reward	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	0
Adult Education	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	0
Community College Capacity	\$2,500,000	0	\$2,500,000
Appropriation	\$15,000,000	\$10,726,880	\$4,273,120

GF/GP Funding by Michigan Works! Agency

Chart 2

Michigan Works! Agency	P.I. 08-17 Formula Allocation	P.I. 08-20 Need or Project	P.I. 08-22 Reward	P.I. 08-22 Website	MWA Total
ACSET	\$105,492				\$105,492
Berrien/Cass/Van Buren	\$51,595	\$500,000	\$160,000	\$5,000	\$716,595
Calhoun ISD	\$45,181	\$384,496	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$454,677
Capital Area	\$69,495	\$890,150	\$80,000	\$5,000	\$1,044,645
Career Alliance	\$118,945		\$150,000	\$5,000	\$273,945
Central Area	\$62,343	\$437,699			\$500,042
City of Detroit	\$344,404				\$344,404
Eastern U.P.	\$15,082				\$15,082
Kalamazoo-St. Joseph	\$37,195	\$190,000		\$5,000	\$232,195
The Job Force	\$31,474	\$374,185	\$60,000		\$465,659
Livingston County	\$25,333	\$250,000	\$130,000		\$405,333
Macomb/St. Clair	\$228,644	\$627,500	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$891,144
Muskegon County	\$40,204				\$40,204
Northeast	\$43,719				\$43,719
Northwest	\$68,339	\$484,000	\$80,000	\$5,000	\$637,339
Oakland County	\$180,810	\$200,000	\$120,000	\$5,000	\$505,810
Ottawa County	\$37,599	\$500,000	\$40,000		\$577,599
Region 7B	\$40,378	\$388,850		\$5,000	\$434,228
Saginaw/Midland/Bay	\$68,420				\$68,420
South Central	\$68,957				\$68,957
SEMCA	\$162,537				\$162,537
Thumb Area	\$64,417			\$5,000	\$69,417
Washtenaw County	\$38,450				\$38,450
West Central	\$34,146		\$40,000		\$74,146
Western U.P.	\$16,841		\$40,000		\$56,841
Total	\$2,000,000	\$5,226,880	\$950,000	\$50,000	\$8,226,880

P.I. = Policy Issuance

Awarded Adult Learning Demonstration Grants

Chart 3

	Project Name	Service Area	Amount Awarded
1	AWARE: Adults Who Are Returning to Education Program	St. Clair County	\$250,000
2	Career Pathway Academy	City of Flint, Genesee and Shiawassee Counties	\$150,000
3	Making College Accessible Program	Kent and Allegan Counties	\$300,000
4	Monroe County Learning Bank Network	Monroe County	\$300,000
5	Northwest Michigan Adult Learning Partnership	Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford Counties	\$150,000
6	Oakland Adult Learning Collaborative	Oakland County	\$300,000
7	Project E3: Excellence in Education and Employability	Delta, Dickinson, Menominee and Schoolcraft Counties	\$300,000
8	Southwest Michigan Regional Adult Learning Network	Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties	\$250,000
9	Southwest Michigan Workforce Education Partnership	Calhoun County	\$250,000
10	Washtenaw Region Adult Education Collaborative	Washtenaw County and parts of Livingston, Lenawee and Monroe Counties	\$250,000
	Total		\$2,500,000