



RIVERWORKS

CENTER

TECHNOLOGY • INDUSTRY • RETAIL

Information about applicants to Riverworks Job Placement Programs

The Riverworks Development Corporation is committed to serving Milwaukee's unemployed and underemployed residents, with a primary focus on those living in the 53212 zip code area.

The company has forged strong partnerships with the Precision Metal Association and the Milwaukee Area Technical College in order to assist jobseekers as they embark on their career development path. During 2005-2006 our efforts have hampered by external forces that adversely affected several of our hiring partners.

In addition many companies need highly skilled workers whereas RDC had been working with people who have the following characteristics.

Of the **396** applicants on file for 2006 – 21% or 83 had been convicted of a felony within the last seven years, many were new releases who also little or no previous work history.

Education Level – 22% or 87 had not gone past 11th grade
32% or 126 possessed high school diplomas
46% or 166 had some tech school experience or had participated in another training program

Fired or terminated – 20% or 79 had at least one fire/termination from their most recent employment. Voluntary quits were not a part of the count

61% or 241 of the applicants had worked in position that were **low skilled/unskilled** (general labor, assembly)

14% or 55 worked in employment that was **semi-skilled** (fork-lift, warehouse)

25% or 99 worked in positions requiring **advanced skilled** training or certification (welding, construction, healthcare)

Valid Driver's License 36% or 143 possessed a valid driver's license upon entry into the program. Many with licenses lacked reliable transportation.

Although it was not tracked many of the applicants did not **having working phone numbers** when contacted for employment referrals. – We attribute this to the participant's economic state.

In today's unique employment market our organization remains committed to BUILDING the workforce and we understand that many of Milwaukee's unemployed and underemployed residents need foundational work experiences to succeed in today's workforce.

During 2006 RDC trained provided technical training to 41 people of which 9 are working and could be reported to Block Grant another 7 are working but are not yet verifiable because they need to successfully complete a minimum 90 days of work. These participants have been **pay-rolled through agencies**.

The organization also provided (direct services) résumé, on-line application, referral or other services assistance to 136 people. As of this writing 17 people were working and could be reported to Block Grant 16 were retained at their 45 day mark. Four others who received direct services working but not permanently hired they also have been **pay-rolled through agencies**.

After careful review of our performance, service goals and the needs for an effective workforce, RDC has made the following changes or incorporations.

Multi-pronged workforce development strategy. This strategy involves more attention to career path development and the tools necessary for the participant to advance their career path through RDC training.

Expand network of training partners in order to provide training in growth areas, but also providing training to areas that are not growing but consistent. Our staff has been meeting with employers to determine where openings are anticipated and how best to fill those openings.

We expect 2007 to be an exciting and successful year.

Respectfully

Darryl Johnson
Executive Director

Vanessa M. White
Workforce Development Manager