

GREATER LOWELL WORKFORCE AREA

Executive Summary of the FY14-Workforce Development Operational Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

The Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board (GLWIB), in partnership with the Chief Elected Official (CEO), Bernard Lynch, Manager, City of Lowell, is responsible for developing an Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 and submitting the plan to the Massachusetts Department of Career Services, after making it available for public comment. Local workforce investment boards, through the annual planning process, must assure that effective service and positive outcomes remain the overarching goal for all local providers and that quality is not compromised in the wake of challenges posed to the workforce system.

As stated in our 2009-2014 Strategic Plan, the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board remains dedicated to developing and sustaining a skilled and educated workforce to respond to current and emerging labor market needs. We will pursue this goal by assessing the needs of employers, expanding the skill set of the local workforce to meet those needs and enhancing the youth pipeline. While our strategy remains unchanged, we must continually assess and improve our effectiveness to meet the increased demand for services coupled with decreases in funding allocations and resources. We will move forward with sector initiatives designed to increase job training and placements.

The GLWIB will continue strong collaboration with its partners to maximize regional resources and sharing of best practices for effective service delivery in support of our goals:

- Goal #1: Promote a highly skilled and educated workforce capable of earning a sustaining wage, ensuring access for all individuals and families to opportunities for employment services and career development.
- Goal #2: Meet the workforce needs of current and future employers, supporting economic development, business competitiveness, and job growth.
- Goal #3: Enhance the organizational effectiveness and capacity of the GLWIB to provide leadership, engage key stakeholders, and maximize the use of resources to sustain an effective workforce development system.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit written comments on the Executive Summary to the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board by July 9, 2013. The two-part plan focuses on (1) budget and projected service levels and (2) narrative. The complete FY14 plan will be available on the GLWIB website in October 2013. Copies of the plan may also be obtained by contacting the GLWIB, 107 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 08152; 978-937-9816.

II. Allocations

WIA Title I Adult	\$ 465,393
WIA Title I Dislocated Worker	\$484,229
WIA Title I Youth	\$ 491,417
Total	<u>\$1,441,039</u>

III. Budgets (and/or Budget Narrative)

4,607,488

IV. WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs

Through the One-Stop Career Center (OSCC) workforce development system, adult and dislocated worker job seekers will have access to a broad array of services from a comprehensive assortment of employment programs. WIA provides for basic core services, which are available to all job seekers, and additional intensive and training services are available to persons predicated on meeting certain eligibility criteria. Examples of Core, Intensive and Training services include:

- Career Center Seminar (CCS)
- Career Action Plan (CAP)
- Job Search/Job Readiness Workshops
- Individual Career Counseling/Career Planning
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Labor Market Information
- Remedial Education/Occupational Skills Training
- Job Development and Placement Assistance

Training opportunities for eligible Adults and Dislocated Worker job seekers are obtained through Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) from a wide network of qualified training providers. Based on funding availability eligible individuals may receive up to \$5,000 in funding assistance for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and/or General Equivalence Diploma (GED) Preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and/or Occupational Skills Training.

The One-Stop Career Centers partner with several non-WIA funded agencies providing services to Adults and Dislocated Workers to include the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind for persons with disabilities, the Department of Transitional Assistance funded education and training services to public assistance and food stamp recipients, and Title V services to older workers. The Center also collaborates with the Community Corrections Center in providing assistance to ex-offenders.

Adults:

Approximately 40 Adult job seekers will be served in Fiscal Year 2014.

WIA Adult Performance Goals:

- Entered Employment Rate 77%
- Employment Retention Rate 83%
- Six month earnings \$12,000

Dislocated Workers:

Approximately 182 Dislocated Worker job seekers will be served in Fiscal Year 2014.

WIA Dislocated Worker Performance Goals:

- Entered Employment Rate 80%
- Employment Retention Rate 90%
- Six month earnings \$20,500

In addition, other WIA and non-WIA funding sources assisting dislocated workers will include:

- Department of Career Center Services “Rapid Response”
- National Emergency Grants (NEG’s)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)

V. Wagner – Peyser

Wagner-Peyser funded employment services provide universal access to core services delivered through the Career Center of Lowell. The Career Center will focus on providing a variety of employment related labor exchange services including but not limited to job search assistance, job referral, and placement assistance for job seekers. During FY14, approximately 7,500 job seekers will receive labor exchange services.

VI. Business Services

The Business Team will assist employers in recruiting and hiring qualified and talented job seekers. During FY 14 approximately 350 employers will be provided services through the Career Center. Services will consist of job postings, applicant screening and referrals; Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC); on site recruitments; job fairs; labor market information; On the Job Training (OJT), Business Workshops.

VII. Youth WIA Youth Programs

Approximately 67 Youth job seekers will be served in Fiscal Year 2014.

WIA Youth Performance Goals:

- Entered Employment or Education Rate 77%
- Degree/Diploma/GED/ Certificate Attainment Rate 64%
- Literacy/Numeracy Gain* 45%

- The Young Adult Career Center for FY 14 will continue to prioritize the divergent needs and goals of the targeted youth populations. The attainment of employment, occupational, or educational goals will be structured in the Young Adult Career Center through the positive relationships and case management services provided by Staff.
- Our priorities for FY 2014 will be to continuously improve the employment/educational services offered in the Young Adult Career Center which is integrated within the Career Center. The Young Adult Career Center Seminar and Career Action Plan (CCS/CAP) workshop will continue during FY 2014 as the gateway for youth ages 14-24 accessing services.
- The Young Adult Career Center area provides an inviting, friendly environment with the opportunity for the young adult to network and interact with their peers in the Resource Room. The Young Adult Career Center mirrors the services offered the Adult and Dislocated Worker within the Career Center of Lowell to include workshops.
- The 2013 Summer Employment Program (July 8-August 16, 2013) will provide subsidized employment opportunities for 250 Lowell youth (ages 14-21).