

## Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project

Racine County was awarded one of 17 Transitional Jobs Demonstration Grants from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families in September, 2010. The grant is part of federal stimulus dollars funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The goals of the program are two-fold: to stimulate the economy by assisting employers to be able to bring in additional workers to meet their workforce needs at no additional cost; and to provide paid employment and skills training to job seekers that meet program guidelines.

The program, implemented in September, is designed to provide “time-limited, wage-paying jobs” that combine real work, skill development and supportive services. “Our goal is to provide up to six-months, 40 hours-a-week combined wage paying employment and training for 52 transitional job slots to eligible Racine County residents,” said Christine Henning, Program Coordinator. Selected participants attend a paid two-week orientation devoted to training and coaching on work related topics included but not limited to work readiness, financial literacy, how to get and keep a job, and mock interviews. Transitional Workers are then matched with a worksite where they are employed for up to six months, earning a minimum of \$7.25 an hour.

The program utilizes for-profit, non-profit and public businesses that have a willingness to provide training to Transitional Workers. All costs are covered through the grant’s funding, and employers are not required to retain a participant at the end of the transitional job placement. At the same time, Transitional Workers gain skills training, a positive work history, a work reference and a paycheck.

To date two groups, totaling 33 Transitional Workers, have participated in a two-week Orientation and 31 are now working at Transitional Job worksites. One employee was hired after just five weeks into the Transitional Job! Some employers are truly embracing the program and adjusting their training according to the skill levels and/or interests of their Transitional Workers. Many of the Transitional Workers will be considered for permanent positions at their employer worksites, given availability and their performance.



Pictured: Chris Henning, Transitional Jobs Program Coordinator, Racine County Workforce Development Center, Loretta Olson, Director Hire Recruiter, Express Employment Professional and - Round 2 Program Participants

Entrance into the Transitional Jobs Program is through a competitive application process. Applications for the third round are available at the Workforce Development Center, Resource Room located at 1717 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Completed applications are due on Friday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. Candidates must meet all program eligibility requirements.

Employers interested in hosting a program participant can log onto [www.wdc.racineco.com](http://www.wdc.racineco.com) to learn more and submit an application, or call (262) 638-6431.