

NEWS RELEASE



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Racine County Gets State Grant for Innovative Program to Train Unemployed in Tri-County Area

Racine – Racine County Executive Jim Ladwig announced today that the Racine County Workforce Development Center has been awarded a \$150,280 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to operate a pilot training program in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties. The program, Wisconsin Workers Win (W3), gives persons who are in the first 20 weeks of collecting unemployment compensation an opportunity for on-site, real-world training by local employers, with the potential of being hired once the training ends.

Said Ladwig: “This is a win-win program. While continuing to draw unemployment compensation, people recently laid off can gain new skills and work experience with an employer that has a current opening. Employers have the chance to train potential employees to fill positions in their workforces and to assess their suitability for long-term employment.”

This pilot program will serve 130 unemployment insurance claimants, providing participants 20 to 24 hours a week of training for six weeks. While in the program, the participants will continue to receive unemployment compensation benefits, as well as an additional \$75 weekly stipend to defray child care, transportation or other work-related expenses. In addition, even though they may be hired by the employers where they are being trained, the participants must continue to look for work outside the hours they are receiving training.

Any employer with a current job opening is eligible to participate in the program. The employer must be willing to provide training and supervision and carry worker’s compensation on the participant. The employer may consider the participant for hire after the training period, but is not required to hire the person.

Interested employers are invited to attend an Informational Session on Wednesday, June 20th at 9:00 am at the iMET Center (formerly CATI), 2320 Renaissance Blvd in Sturtevant, or contact Tim Thompson at (262) 638-6683 or tim.thompson@goRacine.org. Employers and unemployment insurance claimants interested in participating in the W3 program can log onto www.wdc.racineco.com to learn more.

For additional information regarding this program contact Alice Oliver, Racine County Workforce Development Center Manager, at 262 638-6620 or alice.oliver@goRacine.org.

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