



Message from the WIB Chair

*Scott Kincaid
First Community
Bank*

Partnerships are vital to building a strong economy in Sonoma County. One of the joys of being the WIB Chair is watching the blend of business, community, and government leaders that make up the WIB board create innovative strategies and effective partnerships to improve the County's workforce.

This issue of the WIB Newsletter explores a handful of the public/private partnership activities that the WIB is involved with.

SEP Success

The Subsidized Employment Program (SEP) provided subsidized employment for low income families who often have difficulties finding employment even in strong economic times. The Sonoma County implementation of SEP, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program, placed 269 individuals (231 public assistance and 38 low income families) in temporary jobs with over 150 employers.

The program paid 100% of the employee's wages and payroll taxes, with employers paying the cost of supervision and training.

The program started in February and ended in September 2010.

One hundred and nineteen (119) of the people placed in SEP jobs that were on SonomaWORKS earned wages high enough to end their cash aid grant, and to date, approximately 173 (64%) of those placed in the SEP program have been offered a permanent position by their employer.



2011 Summer Jobs Program

Plans are underway for the 2011 Summer Jobs Program. Building on the successful 2009 and 2010 Summer Jobs programs, next year's program once again will leverage a partnership of local organizations to provide low income youth with valuable work experience, time management skills, and a paycheck.

In 2010, 176 youth over 8 weeks completed 44 separate projects at the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). In 2009, the program served 316 youth.

An estimated 192 youth will be served in 2011. Funding will come from both Workforce Investment Act funds and SCWA funds. Youth will work four hours a day, four days a week, with an additional educational component.

Sonoma County WIB/EDB Partnership

The WIB/Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB) partnership is an example of how entities can work together to leverage their strengths for greater productivity. Together EDB and WIB provide a comprehensive approach to job placement in the region.

WIB uses research generated by the EDB on regional labor market trends and employment opportunities to better focus on job placement and training in the areas of greatest current local demand. WIB provides financial support to the EDB, through CalWORKs and Workforce Investment Act funding, which funds two Project Coordinators (recent college graduates hired for one year internships) in addition to collaborating on grant writing and researching program funding opportunities.

If you have questions or
comments, call:
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www.sonomawib.org