National Academy of Social Insurance
“Getting Workers Back to Work”

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Overview

- Unemployment Insurance & Wisconsin
- Reemployment Services
- Work Readiness Credentials
- Related Strategies
First in Nation: “The Wisconsin Idea”

- Wisconsin UI law enacted, 1932
  ➢ Response to over 25% unemployment
- Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 1935
- By mid-1937, all states had UI laws
UI: Lifeline for Workers

• Benefits sustain families, communities

• States facing extraordinary challenges
  - Wisconsin:
    - ‘07 – 1 program, $908M paid to 346,380 claimants
    - ‘09 – 7 programs, $3.2B paid to 566,353 claimants

• RES: Helping claimants gain skills, return to work more quickly
2005 DOL RES Project

“Strengthening Connections Between UI & One-Stop Delivery System”

• First comprehensive analysis
• Results of ambitious E&T intervention
  ➢ Higher avg quarterly earnings
  ➢ Shorter UI duration, up to week less
  ➢ Less benefits paid, as much as $233 less
• Consistent w/ dislocated worker study results
RES & ARRA

• ARRA: $7.2M for RES
• Redirected $3.8M from ARRA UI Admin
• Hired 50 staff, 6/09
• Began RES sessions across state, 7/09
  ▪ Increased capacity from 2 to 90 sessions per week
  ▪ 50% most likely & 50% least likely to exhaust
• Triage to assessment, counseling, referrals, work ready
Work Readiness Credential

- Promoting WorkKeys through RES
- 85% of jobs require math, reading, research skills
- Earn National Career Readiness Certificate
- Advancing NCRC as work readiness credential

RES supports:

- Key Train pre-tests
- WorkKeys tests
- NCRC credential
Technology Enhancements

- **Job Center of Wisconsin**
  - New job matching system with resume posting
  - 25,000 jobs & 32,000 resumes

- **Call Center Anywhere**
  - Services through statewide ‘virtual’ call center
  - 31,000 job seeker/12,700 employer calls since 4/10
Related Back to Work Strategies

- Career pathway & bridge programs
- Lifelong learning
- Middle skill jobs
- Emerging sectors & industry partnerships
  - Clean energy, adv mfg, health care, IT
40% with HS diploma or less

- Wisconsin workers
- Age 26 & older

- High School Grad, 35%
- Associate Degree, 15%
- Some College (no degree), 16%
- Four-year College Degree or more, 29%
- High School Drop Out 5%

Source: UW-Madison COWS, 2008
Investing in skilled workforce

Related Strategies

- H.S. Diploma
- GED
- Associate Degree
- Apprenticeship
- Industry credentials
- MSSC/other industry cert
- Journey Card
- Occupational License
- Bachelors +

$18,720/yr - $24,960/yr
- K-12 Econ Disadv
- Low Skilled Dis Workers
- TANF

$24,960 - $37,400/yr
- Tech College

$37,400+/yr
- 4-yr College
Thank you