

RAPID RESPONSE

WIOA
Dislocated Worker



The WIOA Dislocated Worker program is a federal program that provides employment and training services to workers who have lost their jobs.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES & WORKERS FACING LAYOFFS

West Central Works has a Rapid Response Program to help businesses and workers face impending layoffs. Our goal is to help reduce the number of layoffs, when possible, and make the transition easier for workers who need to find a new position. We can come to your location, present to your workforce, and help them connect with resources, services, and other jobs available within our community.

West Central Works offers layoff transition services in conjunction with Job Service, Service Providers and One-One-Stop Partners. Together, we help companies and workers deal with the effects of layoffs and plant closures. As part of the program design, the Rapid Response team provides information about available resources and services to affected workers to help with the layoff transition.

DEVELOPING A TRANSITION STRATEGY

The rapid response team will work with the employer and any union or other employee representatives to begin preparing a transition strategy. To best assist, the rapid response team will cover the following items:

- the anticipated layoff schedule,
- the employer's needs and expectations,
- the employee representative's needs and expectations,
 - available resources,
 - time and resource constraints,
 - community factors, and
- workforce demographics, education, skills, and needs.



INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

The rapid response team will work with the employer and any employee representatives to schedule on-site informational sessions for the affected workforce. Core topics covered at these sessions include: the Dislocated Worker Program, Unemployment Insurance, Job Center resources and health insurance considerations and options. Additional topics relating to financial education and community resources may be covered as well. Topic-specific workshops (resume writing, interviewing, online job search, household budgeting, career planning, coping with job loss

The topics may all be presented during a single session or split amongst multiple sessions, depending on the circumstances. The rapid response team tries to be as flexible as possible when it comes to determining the best format and the number of sessions needed to accommodate the affected workforce, including making arrangements for multiple shifts.

Informational sessions will be offered on-site at the company and on paid time to encourage employees' attendance. Employees who participate will learn about resources that can help them secure new employment. Employees will also be informed that prematurely terminating their employment may result in ineligibility for many of the programs and benefits that would otherwise be available to them had they stayed on until officially laid off.

Rapid Response events

April 2023 to September 2023

Company	# of Lay Offs	Informational sessions attendance	Employees enrolled in services	County
Puris Proteins	48	32	8	Barron
Mason Shoe	25	0	0	Chippewa
3M	50	2	1	Dunn/Barron
Marshfield Clinic	16	10	6	Eau Claire
Hutchinson Technology	287	64	51	Eau Claire
The Eau Claire Academy (Oct 2022)	59	47	18	Eau Claire

SUCCESS STORY



Presentation title

- Theresa was laid off from her job in a department store in June 2021 when the business closed. She had worked there over 4 years as an Assistant Store Manager putting in an average of 50hrs/week.
- With help from the County Job Center, Theresa was enrolled in the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act or WIOA; She explored career options through an assessment of her aptitudes and interests as well as learning Labor Market Info from her WIOA Career Planner.
- Theresa decided to attend Northwood Tech to complete the Medical Administrative Professional program. As part of the curriculum, she was able to gain hands-on experience in her new career with an externship at a County Health and Human Services. Even with the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic presented, Theresa earned straight A's and graduated as a High Honors Graduate with an Associates of Applied Science degree in that program on May 14, 2023.
- The grants were able to help with the costs of Theresa's schooling using a special Retail Grant offered to dislocated workers from the retail industry. The funding covered much of Theresa's tuition, books costs, and the internet service needed to complete the online class instruction necessary due to the Covid pandemic.
- Since graduating Theresa has found work in her field with a full-time position with benefits at a rehabilitation center earning a good wage in the same range as her previous job.



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Deb Nichols
Business Services Director

THANK YOU