
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Tri-County Industrial Training Consortium



Grant amount: \$2,991,840

Grantee: Henderson-Henderson County Chamber of Commerce

Key Partners: Henderson Community College, Rhodes International, Millennium Teleservices, and Pioneer Plastics, among 48 tri-county businesses

Leveraged amount: \$1,306,631 in cash and in-kind contributions from the partners

Grant activities will take place in Henderson, Union, and Webster Counties, Kentucky.

Challenge:

The western Kentucky region faces economic and employment challenges related to the decline of coal mining. At the same time, the area's growing advanced manufacturing industry needs workers with up-to-date skills. The tri-county area lacked the full array of current, industry-driven training resources required to meet the manufacturing industry's emerging and evolving workforce needs.

Addressing the Challenge:

The Tri-County Industrial Training Consortium is a collaborative of regional businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the local community college, the public education system, economic development and local government entities, the region's public workforce system and One-Stop Career Center network, and the State of Kentucky's community college system. The Consortium is helping to "re-skill" the area's new and incumbent workforce by providing existing and emerging manufacturers and related employers with job profiling, testing and assessment, pre-employment and incumbent worker training, and placement. The Consortium develops and provides customized training to enable Henderson-area manufacturers to keep current with advanced manufacturing technologies. Services are targeted to unemployed and underemployed individuals, dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and secondary and post-secondary students. As of September 2003, the Consortium's providers have trained over 800 individuals. Additionally, the Consortium provides rapid response and layoff assistance to downsizing and declining industry employers and matches displaced employees with new career opportunities with growing manufacturing employers.

Projected Outcomes:

- The Consortium anticipates training over 2,000 area residents, to secure employment for 63% of project participants within four weeks of training completion, and obtain re-employment for 71% of the dislocated workers that complete training.
- By building the community's ability to be responsive to the economic and workforce needs of its growing manufacturing base, the Consortium positively impacts the area's long-term economic development, attracts new businesses, and supports job growth and job creation.

