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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report

Reporting Period
October - December 2009

Coconino County Career Center
110 E. Cherry Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-679-7400 1-877-358-6714

Dislocated Worker's Give Back Even in Uncertain Times

The **Coconino Career Center**, through the use of **ARRA** funds, has provided dislocated workers with job readiness skills, updated training opportunities, workshops and Job Clubs. These services provide the much needed emotional and skill support during very uncertain times.

But the people who are receiving these services are the real story. During the holiday season many dislocated workers and their families stepped up to help those in need in our community.

The Coconino County 'Connector' reported that through the generous help of Jane and **Jim Zeimantz**, (Jim is a dislocated worker client with the **Career Center**), the Assessors and Career Center offices, plus other employees, Community Services provided Senior Services Gift Basket for 25 Senior Services and Public Fiduciary clients.

In addition to seeking employment **Jim Zeimantz** also volunteers every week at the Health Department Flu Season phone bank.

New Health Grant to help get Workers Trained and on the Job*

*A competitive grant awarded by the AZ Governor's Workforce Policy Council.

With health care jobs continuing to grow and forecasted continued expansion, the **Coconino Career Center** is partnering with Yavapai County and local employers in both Coconino and Yavapai counties to offer new skills training that will lead to positions in health care. Exciting new opportunities are being opened in the Caregiver and the Electronic Medical Record fields.

A Caregiver touches the lives of so many, whether they are children, teens, adults, or the elderly, the need is growing as the population shifts and changes. The caregiver is the helping hand that we so often do not hear about.

The electronic medical records field is immersed in workload from the office receptionist to the back office. All areas of the medical care facility are becoming part of the new record collection and management system.

At every step of the way the **Coconino Career Center** is helping individuals attain the skills and training needed to allow them to step into on-the-job training, and then into a regular position of employment. Skills training will be developed in areas such as 1st Aid/CPR, basic office and computer skills, customer service, medical terminology, and time management.

Partnering employers will benefit by hiring employees with up to date skills and many pre-employment costs paid for. Fingerprint clearance card, CPR/1st Aid and a portion of wages paid for the on-the-job training period will all be covered.

It's a win-win situation. Employers being able to meet their needs by hiring those ready and trained for skilled jobs. While job seekers are finding new careers and are able to immediately enter on-the-job training which leads directly into regular employment.

Coconino Career Center: Providing a Bridge to the Future



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession.

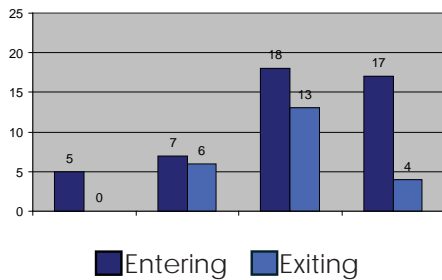
Coconino County was awarded \$586,641 for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which is being administered by the Coconino County Career Center. The Coconino County Career Center mission is:

To provide a bridge to the future, making a difference by:

- Training individuals to take charge of their career success
- Providing employers with quality employees
- Meeting the challenge of a changing work environment

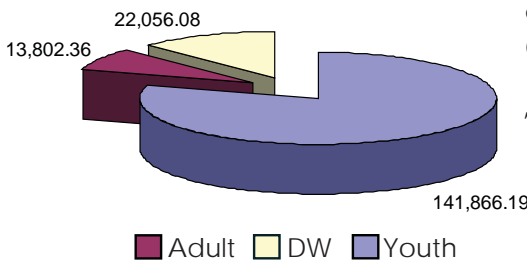
We conscientiously serve the communities of our county and positively contribute to a better economy.

Adults / DW's
Entering & Exiting the Program



The Coconino County Career Center works with the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and with the Coconino County Workforce Investment Board. The Board draws its membership from the communities we serve and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

ARRA Dollars Spent
through Dec '09 by Funding Area

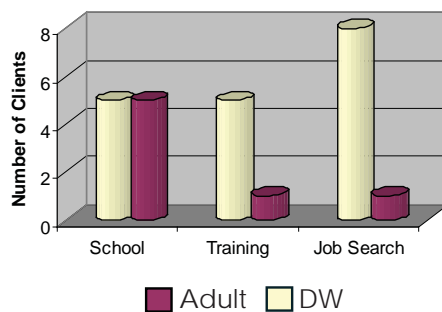


The Coconino County Career Center received \$586,641 from the American Recovery and Investment Act and is already well into the implementation of programs that put the money to work for the residents of off-reservation Coconino County.

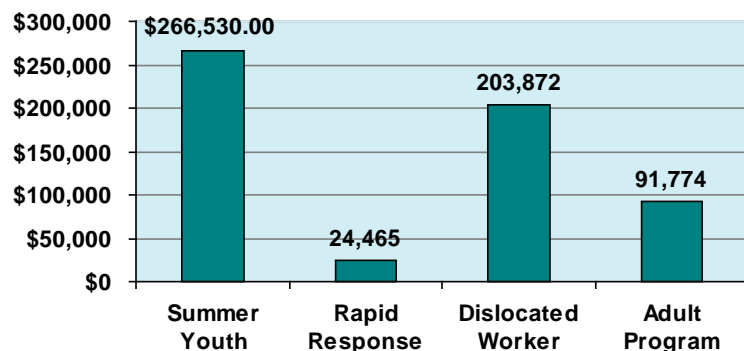
The Career Center is focusing strongly on:

- Low-income youth employment and skills training
- Rapid Response activities to employers and their employees facing lay-off and closure
- Dislocated Worker re-employment services
- Adult programs including adult training and employment.

ARRA Funded Opportunities



ARRA Funding



Quarterly Highlights and Exciting Updates



Finding Their Footing

The *Arizona Daily Sun* (the local newspaper serving Flagstaff and Northern Arizona) published a follow up article on how three residents have moved forward during the recession. These three residents were highlighted by the paper early in the year, all three having been laid off from long term employment.

Two of the three people highlighted in the article sought out the services offered at the **Coconino Career Center** after they found themselves out of work. **Rapid Response** assistance to both employers informed workers of opportunities with the Career Center.

Patty Tuttle was a coordinator for Coconino Community College's Fourth Street campus and had worked for CCC for 17 years.

Randy Young was laid off as a broadcast technician for Distance Learning at Northern Arizona University after 11 years of service.

Both Patty and Randy worked with the Career Center staff developing updated resumes, working on interviewing skills, computer skills, attending workshops and getting involved in Job Club.

Patty is now working as an administrative assistant for the U.S. Air Force ROTC program. Randy has moved into a new career path and has obtained his Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and is now driving a bus for special needs students at Flagstaff Public Schools.

A Brighter Future

Being a working mother while trying to finish a nursing degree at Coconino Community College was a demanding but important goal for **Debbie Dorsett**.

Through a partnership between the **Coconino Career Center** and Coconino Community College Debbie received much needed assistance through ARRA funding. She was able to have her nursing licensing exam fees paid and she excelled by passing the exam on her first try. She graduated from the community college in December with her RN license.

Debbie was able to secure a position as a registered nurse and is enthusiastic about the future of her career. Through the help and encouragement of the staff at the Career Center she now sees a brighter future.



Encouraging Success

Job Club success can be attributed to the participant interaction and commitment to the group, while the Career Center moderates the group, participants take away so much more from each other.

People Helping People is one of the huge benefits of the job club. The participants share success and opportunities, each offering their insight to help one another, often sharing employment opportunities with someone with the right skills.

When moderating the sessions, the **Career Center** tries to encourage interaction between participants. We're always looking for new ways to inspire people, new ways to get them back to work, so we always have a back up discussion for the session.

See how current clients are benefiting

"The staff were very supportive of my change of careers."

~Ben Swanson

"A great program."

~Angela Carrillo

"Everyone was really helpful."

~Ben Lubers

"It was nice havng assistance for school."

~Amber Thompson

"Insightful and very informative."

~Richard Holtzin

"My coach was always available and did everything to help for my success and support for the difficult time."

~Ilsa-Marie Srkek



events & services

Curriculum Development for Job Seekers: Ongoing development of timely re-employment skills, offering job search strategies, internet usage, resume' development, interviewing techniques and other current information.

New Workshops offered Bimonthly: With an ever-changing economy and job skill base, new workshops are added bimonthly to help job seekers keep current on skills, knowledge, and current employment issues.

A new training program for **Caregivers and Electronic Health IT Systems** is being implemented in a joint initiative between Coconino and Yavapai Counties. The program will allow applicants to quickly update skills for employment in a demand industry. This program is funded by a grant from the Arizona Governor's Workforce Policy Council.

~ Job Fairs ~

The Career Center is present at county-wide job fairs to encourage participants to learn about our programs.

~ Success Celebration ~

Held quarterly, this is an opportunity to celebrate with others who have reached their goals.

~ Open Lab ~

Times are available daily to use the internet, use job search resources or to submit applications.

EEO employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individual with disabilities.



**COCONINO
COUNTY
ARIZONA**

COCONINO CAREER CENTER
110 E. Cherry Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-4627