



INDIANA
WORKFORCE
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Indiana Regions Awarded Workforce Development Grants

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 14, 2005) – An Indiana Department of Workforce Development program aimed at creating new jobs and increasing personal income for Hoosiers has awarded over \$2.6 million in grants as part of the initial phase of the Innovating Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative. Introduced earlier this year, the \$23 million Strategic Skills Initiative program works with Indiana's 11 regions to identify key skills gaps in high-wage, high demand occupations.

Representatives from business, education, labor, economic and workforce development developed these plans, which will identify and quantify short-term and long-term skills shortages, and create and implement regional solutions. According to the grant proposals, the initial funding awarded to Indiana's 11 regions will be used to fully integrate regional workforce strategies that leverage the strengths of the each area's strongest industries and meets the needs of the future workforce needs to make Indiana globally competitive.

“Historically, Indiana has struggled to effectively address skill shortages, and this has resulted in a loss of jobs and wages lower than the national average,” said Indiana Workforce Development Commissioner Ron Stiver. “Governor Mitch Daniels has charged our agency with identifying innovative ways to help increase jobs and personal income for Hoosiers. This initiative enables us to anticipate skills and occupational shortages, identify their root causes, and implement realistic solutions for prevention of job loss, retention of regional talent and attraction of jobs paying competitive wages.”

Awards from the Phase I applications, as ranked by grant score, are:

1. Region 6 – awarded \$ 263,131
2. Region 3 – awarded \$ 262,477
3. Region 1 – awarded \$ 311,122
4. Region 4 – awarded \$ 221,474
5. Region 2 – awarded \$ 270,195
6. Region 5 – awarded \$ 255,375
7. Region 8 – awarded \$ 244,346
8. Region 10 – awarded \$ 144,418
9. Region 7 – awarded \$ 251,812
10. Region 9*
11. Region 11*

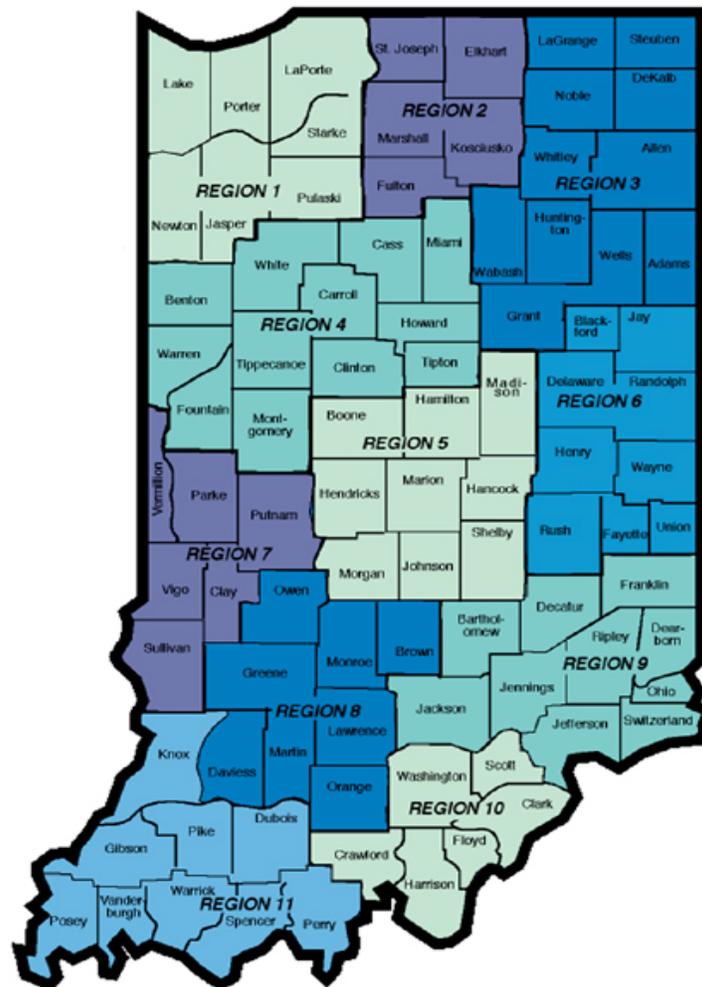


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Regions will now begin Phase II and compete for the remaining \$20 million to create new jobs, reduce skill gaps, and increase Hoosier income. Regions will compete for these funds and will be held accountable for achievements in their two-year action plans.

Additional information about the Innovating Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative, including an overview of the entire effort as well as applications can be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/ssi.html>

For more information on the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, please visit our website at www.workforce.in.gov or call 1-888-WorkOne.



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**Both regions 9 and 11 have been asked to submit improved proposals. The remaining nine regions will move ahead on schedule, while IDWD works with regions 9 & 11. Upon approval from the review committee, their awards will be announced and Phase II will commence for regions 9 and 11.*