

Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board, Inc. is the Workforce Development Board certified by the Governor of Indiana to provide policy guidance for, and review and evaluation of, activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) in the nine county region of Southwest Indiana: Dubois Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick, designated as “Region 11” by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The Board is comprised of a majority of business representatives with mandatory members from labor, education, and economic development.

The Board’s focus is to build relationships with the business community to identify barriers to employment opportunities; work with business and training providers to support business attraction, expansion, and retention; and utilize timely labor market analyses to identify primary business sectors and regional in-demand, high wage occupations. To help support job growth, the Board has coordinated several initiatives targeted at our youth to enhance the awareness of the in-demand careers in Southwest Indiana: Grow Southwest and Dubois County Teachers’ Manufacturing Bootcamps, Southwest Indiana STEM Challenge, and the Vanderburgh and Gibson County Tour of Opportunity events. These programs offer hands-on opportunities for our youth to experience what our local businesses can offer them for future careers. Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce also supports employers with the Next Level Jobs Employer Training Grant. The Employer Training Grant reimburses employers who hire, train, and retain new or incumbent workers to fill in-demand positions.

Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce strategically plans for an integrated workforce system between businesses and job seekers by providing local resources for posting jobs, recruiting candidates, securing training, job placement, and other workforce needs for employers and job seekers. To achieve the goal of a cohesive workforce system through a delivery model that appears seamless to the customer, Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce oversees the funds and direction of WorkOne Southwest offices through the integration of all workforce services. Workforce services include, but are not limited to, resume development, interview coaching, job search assistance, career planning, and skills evaluations as well as partnering with educational institutions to provide training opportunities to support individuals and employers. As with many others, adjustments have been made to continue serving individuals and businesses during these times. Virtual workshops have been developed to assist individuals with resumes and interview coaching. Virtual job fairs will soon be available to connect job seekers and employers.

Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board is constantly monitoring and evaluating the performance and effectiveness of programs to ensure the quality of services and attainment of goals to assist job seekers in meeting the hiring needs of employers. Board members are customers, visionaries, catalysts for change, and guardians of the local workforce development system who convenes with key stakeholders in business, education, economic development and chambers of commerce to enhance our region’s economic stability and prosperity to eliminate systemic inequalities in the labor market by efficiently connecting workers with jobs and employers with workers. By maintaining a strategic focus on the overall system and continually promoting a regional collaboration, the board concentrates on workforce issues that will have long term impact on the economic development and the well-being of our region.