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Mayor Announces Workforce Development Grant Recipients
LOW-INCOME JOB SEEKERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO WORKONE SERVICES CLOSER TO HOME

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today announced that EmployIndy is awarding workforce development grants totaling $490,000 to seven community organizations demonstrating a strong record of success in providing employment services to the underserved.

“Indianapolis is attracting new jobs and investment faster than at any point over the past ten years, and we need skilled, well-trained people to fill those positions,” said Mayor Ballard. “These community-based organizations have a solid track record of helping unemployed residents find jobs, and this funding will assist them in providing more comprehensive job training services and in connecting unemployed and chronically underemployed low-income residents with career pathways aligned with Indianapolis’ growing economic sectors.”

Federally funded workforce development services are delivered through three WorkOne centers in Marion County. The offices have high client traffic and are well-equipped to assist individuals with few barriers to employment. The community-based organizations receiving these grants have a history of success in providing services to residents with significant employment obstacles. The additional funding and resources, plus assistance from experts at Indianapolis’ three WorkOne centers, will enable these organizations to better train and place low-income residents and help retain them in the workforce.

Grants of $100,000 each are awarded to:

- Fathers and Families, 2835 N. Illinois St., enhancing the capacity of young fathers to become responsible and involved parents, wage earners, and providers of child support.
- Southeast Community Services, 901 Shelby St., connecting residents in southeast Indianapolis to resources in employment, education, and social services.
- Healthnet, 1835 N. Meridian St., providing healthcare and support services throughout the city.

Grants of $75,000 each are awarded to:
● Rebuilding the Wall, 2322 Guilford Ave., connecting families in the Citizens-King Park and Martindale-Brightwood communities to first-time homeownership opportunities.
● Keys to Work, 602 N. Sherman Drive, providing rehabilitation and support services to Indianapolis citizens, including ex-offenders.

Grants of $20,000 each are awarded to:
● Hawthorne Community Center, 2440 W. Ohio St., facilitating services and programs for families on the Westside of Indianapolis.
● Flanner House of Indianapolis, 2424 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., connecting educational, economic, and social services resources for children and families on the Near-Northwestside of Indianapolis.

Using a portion of the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, these community organizations will provide:
● Workforce development services such as job-readiness training and vocational skills training for entry-level and low-income workers.
● Educational services such as basic education, ESL training, and GED training.
● Supportive services that enhance job placement and retention outcomes.

In conjunction with the CDBG funding, EmployIndy will leverage federal workforce funding to bring employment services and case management support to the selected organizations, strengthening their capacity to receive and administer highly regulated federal workforce development funds.

“Workforce development strategies fail when they are not comprehensive, and supportive service programs are most successful when they are tied to full-time work in the labor market or when service delivery is accompanied by job search requirements,” said EmployIndy President and CEO Brooke Huntington.

Over the past 15 years, employment and training programs have evolved from solely job placement into comprehensive workforce development initiatives that often focus on longer-term outcomes such as job retention, career advancement, and family self-sufficiency.

“Creating a pipeline of job-ready candidates requires that we enlist organizations with strong community connections, strong neighborhood relationships, effective outreach and recruitment services, comprehensive assessment tools, high quality supportive service delivery, and partnerships with employers,” said Bill Taft, executive director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation and Chair of EmployIndy’s Neighborhood Workforce Development Committee. “We are pleased to support these organizations to help achieve that important goal.”

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