

Economic Development Agency - Job Training Center

Background

The Economic Development Agency (EDA) Job Training Center (JTC) located on Spruce Street, administers an effective educational and occupational training program, with a related supportive services system. The JTC is funded by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), guided by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and County Workforce Development Board. It is designed to be a community-oriented and customer-focused, one-stop system of business, employment, education and training service.

The Workforce Development Board, a private sector board, oversees federal JTPA funds. It provides policy guidance and increases private sector involvement in the development of educational and occupational training programs.

Within the JTC, the following departments function strictly under the JTPA:

Employment Training Panel (ETP)

Founded in 1983, ETP is a state agency that provides up to \$80 million in job training funds annually to employers throughout the state. Employers determine their training needs and how to provide the best training. Trainees receive current minimum wages. Reimbursement to the employer for training costs is on a scheduled fee system. To earn ETP reimbursement, trainees must receive at least forty hours of training and complete a ninety-day employment retention period following completion of training.

Employer Resource Center

Managed by JTC, this center provides employer assistance with job training programs, labor market information, recruitment and training.

Older Workers' Coalition

This recently-formed coalition incorporates various training and employment opportunities. Working with the Office on Aging, this program joins adults, ages fifty-five and over, with employers for part-time and full-time employment opportunities.

Health Care Innovations (HCI) Training Center

Incorporated in 1988, HCI offers a curriculum that educates the student in all phases of health care.

Hire-A-Youth Program

Young adults, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, interested in securing employment are eligible for this program. Participants are taught to work independently or as a team, meet deadlines and follow directions. Also included is the Summer Youth Program. This program enables young people who meet the low-income criteria and are between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one to participate in a summer job program. They receive minimum wage and work for a period of eight weeks. The weeks are thirty-hours maximum.

Foster Assessment Center and Testing Service (FACTS)

Responsible for vocational assessment and career guidance services, FACTS offices are located throughout Riverside County. There is a full assessment center with a wide variety of test instruments at the Riverside County Workforce Development Center on Spruce Street.

Inland Empire Small Business Development Center

This center serves the needs of the small business community throughout the county, through the support of the California Trade and Commerce Agency, local government and the U. S. Small Business Administration.

Riverside County Culinary Academy

This academy provides hands-on training and classroom instruction to students in an actual on-site restaurant.

Employment Development Department/Riverside County One-Stop

This new and innovative one-stop program located in the City of Riverside, provides a variety of services to employers and job seekers. Services include a direct line for unemployment insurance, disability insurance forms and Internet accessibility for America's Job Bank. This computer technology directly links people with jobs available locally, statewide and nationally. Although the initial site is in the City of Riverside, additional sites are being considered for other areas in Riverside County. Smaller subregional One-Stops are proposed in Moreno Valley, Corona, Hemet and Blythe.

Findings

1. Funding is not a major problem, because these programs are in partnership with other agencies.
2. All programs are working well and are being evaluated and updated when necessary. The following information is based upon performance statistics covering the period from July 1, 1996, through March 18, 1998:

Program

Success Ratio

Older Worker Programs 74%

Youth Programs 82%

All Other Programs 72%

3. Efforts have been made to educate the public about benefits available through these programs by:
 - a. Distribution of brochures
 - b. Kiosk centers throughout the county, which are similar to computerized information kiosks at various malls throughout California.

Recommendation

The Director of EDA:

To more effectively inform the citizens of Riverside County of the many programs available, improve the plan that is currently in place by use of radio and television media coverage.