

8.F.2 Future Changes in Job Center Structure

SWWDB's WIA allocation has declined from \$1,982,855 in 2004 to \$1,485,071 in 2007. This is a loss of \$497,784 or more than 25%. The loss of WIA funding for adult and youth programs has been closer to a 40% decline.

Since 2004, WIA funding for Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has declined from \$32,177,781 to \$27,942,886 or a loss of 13.1%. As Bruce Palzkill reported at the October Board Meeting, this caused DWD to lay-off thirty-three (33) positions. As DWD tried to balance its position load across the state, Job Service staff in southwest Wisconsin were heavily impacted. These cuts seriously affect WIA service delivery and the operations of the Job Centers.

The funding cuts have caused DWD to consider alternatives to the current structure of Job Centers. While discussions are ongoing and no final decisions have been made, DWD clearly is signaling that things will be different, and that the current structure of Job Centers can no longer be supported and will need to change. DWD has begun to hold meetings to discuss the transformation of the Job Center system. One option being considered is the possibility of using the concept of technology, specifically the Virtual Job Center (VJC), as a foundation of the new service delivery system. SWWDB has been asked to provide an estimate of what would be needed to make the VJC a statewide system.

Bob Borremans has participated in the meetings that DWD has held regarding changes in Job Centers. He will share his impressions on current DWD discussions. While no formal action is expected, Board input on the consequences of possible Job Center closures would be helpful.