KentuckianaWorks Construction Pipeline Project



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Partnering with labor unions and communitybased organizations to build a new pipeline of construction workers





Empowering People. Changing Lives.





Background: What is KentuckianaWorks?

- Workforce Investment Board for Louisville Metro and 6 surrounding counties
- \$15 million budget in FY11
 - \$9.6 million WIA and Trade
 - \$2.4 million ARRA
 - \$1 million College Access Center (Dept. of Education)
 - \$1.5 million TANF
 - \$0.6 million in city dollars and private grants



Focus on Construction Industry

- Started in 2007 (Remember those good old days?) – impending labor shortages, retirements, \$3 billion in projects slated for Louisville and another \$1 billion at Ft. Knox
 - Museum Plaza
 - River Park Place
 - Ford
 - UPS Worldport
 - Bridges Project
 - Center City



Major Projects



Ohio River Bridges Project



MUSEUM PLAZA



UPS WorldPort





KFC Yum! Center

- Ordinance Requirements
 - Local Workers
 - 60% SMSA
 - 75% Kentucky- Indiana
 - 20% Minorities
 - 5% Female
 - Visionary Leadership
 - Arena Authority
 - Louisville Urban League
 - Building Trades Council





Funding for Pipeline Project

- Jim Host, Governor's former economic development secretary – head of Arena Authority – lobbied for Governor's discretionary WIA dollars
- Host has managed to keep funds flowing through a change of Administration (and party) – in part because of strong support from Mayor Abramsons and Louisville's Chamber of Commerce



Key Responsibilities

 Developed a Construction-Focused One-Stop Career Center (Louisville Urban League)

Recruitment
 (Louisville Urban League
 & Justice Resource Center)

 Orientation (Building Trades Council)



Key Responsibilities

Assessment (Building Trades Council)

 Pre-apprenticeship training (Louisville Urban League
 & Building Trades Council)

 Job Placement (Building Trades Council



History (1 of 3)

- 2007-08: Both Urban League and Building Trades Council proposed to do it all
- Forced "marriage" of Urban League and Building Trades Council by WIB took lots of work
- 2007-08: Navigation of Two Tracks Union and Non-Union (through Associated Builders and Contractors, ABC)



History (2 of 3)

- By fall of 2008, had recruited first classes, had run them through 46-hour curriculum and were ready to get them placed, but...
- Construction market screeched to a halt in region (as across the country)
- Luckily, Mr. Host managed to get Arena funded, and it broke ground
- Strong commitment from lead contractors (national and local) to track local, minority and female hires by subcontractor – with real consequences for nonperformance



History (3 of 3)

- Slow but steady job placements; pace came to a halt in winter 09/10 with only modest improvements as economy starts to thaw
- ABC pushed out in 2009 after non-performance on job placement subcontract
- Tighter partnerships between Urban League and Building Trades Council have created true collaboration
- Implementation of new, national 120-hour curriculum from Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Multi-Craft Core Curriculum

•	OSHA 10	10 Hours
•	CPR-First Aid	8 Hours
•	Blueprint Reading	24 Hours
•	Orientation to Construction Crafts	14 Hours
•	Math Skills	40 Hours
•	Heritage of the American Worker	8 Hours
•	Industry Awareness	8 Hours
•	Tools and Materials	8 Hours
		120 Hours



Current Status

- Yearly cost of program: \$450,000
- Still funded almost entirely from Governor's discretionary dollars, but future prospects uncertain
 - Will ask again for Governor's discretionary dollars
 - Not clear if KentuckianaWorks Board will support this large an expenditure of WIA formula dollars when funding is shrinking and training dollars scarce – especially with modest placement numbers to date



Current Status

- Participants trained: 312
- Participants placed in construction jobs: 114
- Minorities placed in construction jobs: 106
- Women placed in construction jobs: 15
- Average Hourly Wage: \$15.25
- Construction outlook for region still very uncertain



Implications for Local WIBs

- Potential way to work with construction industry –
 particularly union apprenticeship programs that don't
 fit well into WIA "box"
- Great way to do "sector" work in construction union apprenticeship jobs pay good wages and benefits, with career opportunities
- Newest innovation 16-week hard skills, preapprenticeship class with Plumbers and Pipefitters Union – may point way to further partnerships
- Chance to connect CBOs, unions, and business-led boards in united effort – with good jobs at the end of the pipeline



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