



Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio

City of Cincinnati Economic and
Cultural Opportunity Committee

March 23, 2026



The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio (WCSO)

- Administer federal workforce funds
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Business-led
- Serve employers and job seekers in Cincinnati and Hamilton County
- Convene & connect local workforce entities
- Conduct workforce research and regional labor market analysis
- Engage a diverse range of employers to promote business representation and industry/sector partnerships
- Identify eligible training providers
- Oversee youth workforce activities



We offer free training services & provide funding for training

- Unique among local workforce entities
- Perform skill assessments and aptitude testing
- Support pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs
- Information and referral to local training providers
- Training and support costs covered (100% for qualified individuals)
- Incumbent worker training and on-the-job training



Services Funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Career Services for Adults & Employers

- The Workforce Council contracts with a local partner to operate the Cincinnati-Hamilton County OhioMeansJobs Center (OMJ).
- The OMJ Center serves as a one-stop-shop for job seekers and connects them to career development services, job training, and wrap-around supports.
- The OMJ Center also serves employers by coordinating job fairs, hiring events, lay-off aversion services, employer workshops, and more.

Amount



\$4,936,963

Partner



Hamilton County Job & Family Services

Funder



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Time frame



July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025



Return on Investment

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

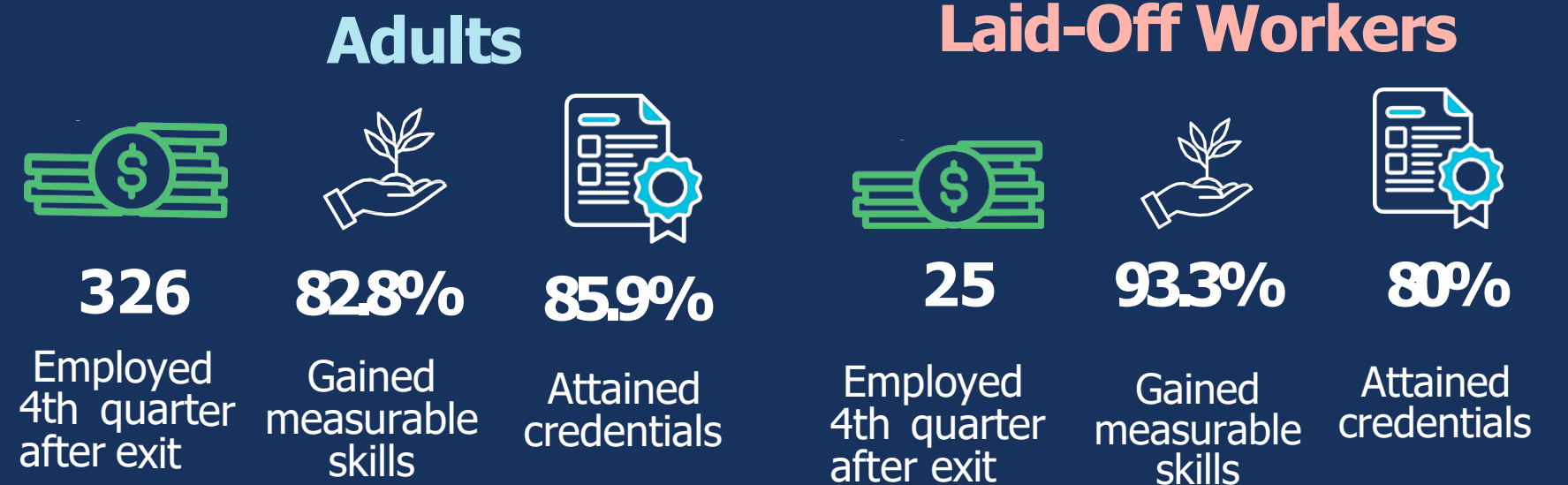
We turned **\$1.5 million** in WIOA funds into **~\$10.61 million** in income for clients

- Last year, we served over **14,107 people** at career fairs, workshops, training programs, and by providing unemployment help. Job-seeking adults and laid-off workers engaged with us to learn new skills, secure employment in in-demand industries, and increase their income.
- This work is accomplished with federal funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

WIOA Program Graduates



*Note this total doesn't account for variability in actual wages (some earn more, some earn less)



Services Funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Career Readiness Services for Youth

The Workforce Council contracts with the following to provide career readiness services to youth and young adults:

- Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (ages 16-24)
- Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (ages 16-18)
- Hamilton County Job & Family Services (ages 14+)



Amount



\$5,219,734

Partner



Hamilton County Job & Family Services, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Urban League

Funder



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Time frame



July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027



Return on Investment

- In 2024-2025, the Workforce Council contracted with Career Team, Hamilton County Job & Family Services, and Santa Maria to serve youth ages 14 - 24 who were neither in school nor working.
- Eligible youth received life skills training, job training and credentials, work experiences, and wrap-around supports to put them on the path to self-sufficiency.

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\$1.6 million Investment in Career Readiness Services

Enrollments: 661 participants



86.3%

Completed education, training or employment 4th quarter after exit



87.3%

Attained credentials



203

Received a GED/ High School Diploma



63.4%

Gained measurable skills



272

Obtained employment



52

Enrolled in post-secondary Education

100% graduation rate for in-school youth

Current Areas of Focus

- Relocation of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County OhioMeansJobs Center
- Selecting the Next Job Center Operator
- Identifying a new Fiscal Agent
- Strengthening the construction workforce pipeline
- Identifying youth career readiness barriers and opportunities
- Find our impact reports by scanning the QR code:
 - Annual report
 - Report on the construction workforce
 - Youth career readiness report
 - Strengthening apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships



Connecting with City Goals & Priorities

- City Goal: Growing economic opportunity in the City of Cincinnati
 - Ensuring all residents and businesses have access to the tools they need to achieve economic stability and prosperity

Example: providing a community resource fair for West End residents on March 25, with funding help from FC Cincinnati Foundation

How else can WCSO support this goal and the city?

