

**Modification to Program Year 2008 Local Adult and Dislocated Worker Plan  
Addition of WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Recovery Act Funds**

**DRAFT**

**Form 1 - Cover Sheet/Signature Page**

<b>APPLICANT AGENCY - Use the legal name and full address of the fiscal agency with whom the grant will be executed.</b>	<b>Contact Name and Address</b>
<p><b>Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Inc. 607 W Main St. Lyon County Government Center Marshall, MN 56258</b></p>	<p><b>Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Inc. 607 W Main St. Lyon County Government Center Marshall, MN 56258</b></p>
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MN Tax ID #: 3012698

Federal Employer ID #: 411487964

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I submit this modification on behalf of the Workforce Service Area (WSA).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 9, 2009

## Questions:

**1. Describe how your local area will integrate resources provided under the ARRA, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and WIA Title IB for adults and dislocated workers, as well as other resources in the WFC such as Re-employment services for the UI claimants. (example, how will the local area use these resources to provide significant funding for low-income and low-skilled workers that help them access the services and training needed to pursue family-supporting jobs).**

**WSA 6 fill focus the use of the ARRA WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds to assist eligible individuals with developing needed skills, training and assistance to obtain self-sufficient career opportunities. Many of the individuals currently facing unemployment are lacking the needed skills to obtain employment that provides wages to support their families. Many of the WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker population of clients are lacking resources to provide for health insurance, food, and other needed resources to maintain their families' needs. Many individuals are currently holding two jobs and working extended hours to maintain their basic needs. The Adult/DW programs will assist these individuals with obtaining, or upgrading the needed skills to prepare them for high growth/high demand occupations that will pay a self-sufficient income.**

**The partners within the WorkForce Centers in southwest Minnesota will continually review and incorporate resources and staff expertise to maximize and integrate the resources available to the customers. On-going manager meetings will be held, whereby available resources are identified and targeted to provide maximum service. This will include the WIA Adult/DW resources, Wagner-Peyser resources and Re-Employment Services for UI claimants. The local office joint staff meetings will be utilized to assure that all partner staff is clear on the goals and expectations related to maximizing service to the customers.**

**As WorkForce Center staff meet with clients, the individuals' barriers to self-sufficient employment will be reviewed. The barriers may include issues related to budgeting, skills assessment, support services and potential referrals to partner agencies that may provide needed assistance for areas such as, but not limited to: housing, food shelf, mental health and chemical dependency.**

**With the addition of the new Wagner-Peyser staff, one (1) for WSA 6, additional Creative Job Search classes, and other specialty workshops (i.e. resume preparation, budgeting, etc) will be held in each of the 3 Centers. The WSA will add additional large group workshops, as needed, to address the needs of persons impacted by layoffs and other economic conditions.**

**2. Describe how local workforce investment system ARRA resources, will be deployed to innovatively serve an increased numbers of workers in need and to substantially increase the number of customers who receive credentialed skill training.**

**Local WorkForce Center representatives and local MnSCU representatives have met and will continue to meet, to determine courses which may be immediately available for persons needed skill upgrades and/or retraining and to identify additional training needs of business and job seekers. Business Service Specialists continue to contact business to**

**determine skills needed for current vacancies, and more importantly to determine skill needs of the future, so courses can be developed to meet the demands. Minnesota West CTC & Southwest State University – Marshall have representatives on the monthly Business Services team, along with WorkForce Center representatives, which allows for an open communication system to identify the needs of business and the talent development opportunities that exist, thereby identifying the gaps that need to be addressed.**

**The partners will work together to develop and implement potential short-term credential programs and target persons for training in the identified programs.**

- 3. Describe how adults and dislocated workers, including low-income and/or under-skilled adults who need to acquire new skills, will have increased access to education and training opportunities in regionally identified demand occupation skill training.**

**An expanded collaborative marketing effort will be deployed throughout the southwest region to assure community awareness of the increased regional education and training opportunities available. The marketing effort will include, but not be limited to: public service announcements (local papers, radio, and cable stations), direct mailings to UI claimants, notices on WorkForce Center Resource Computers, and posters placed throughout the region. Direct communications will be sent to referral agencies, such as the regional Community Action Agencies, County Human Service Departments, financial institutions, Head Start, and educational institutions.**

**Contact will be made with local Chamber of Commerce's to request information be inserted in their monthly newsletters and Friday faxes to encourage businesses to share information with employees. Business Service Staff will inform, and request that, businesses that may be facing potential layoffs of available services share information on the education and training opportunities with their employees.**

- 4. Describe how your local area will provide targeted work activities in order to prepare individuals for job opportunities in new industries/occupations for all jobseekers.**

**WSA 6 will draw on the expertise and knowledge base of the Business Service Staff, who meet regularly with businesses in the region, to determine job opportunities in new industries/occupations in the region. This information, coupled with the labor market information, provided by the DEED Local Labor Market Analyst, WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker staff will identify short-term training needs and targeted work activities. The targeted work activities may include, but not be limited to: On-the-Job Training Contracts and Incumbent Worker Training. WSA 6 staff will work closely with MNWest to assure that specific training, related to the new industries/occupations will be available through the customized training division of the CTC and available to all jobseekers.**

- 5. Describe how your local area will align workforce activities with education strategies and economic and community development strategies to meet skill needs of jobs and industries important to local/regional economies and the needs of under-skilled adults.**

**WSA 6 will coordinate and collaborate closely with the education and economic and**

**community development partners to align services to meet the skill needs of job seekers in the region. Working in concert with these partners, it will better enable the WSA staff to assure that the services provided align closely with the needs of business and assure that regional business and industry needs are met, while at the same time addressing the needs of the under-skilled adults.**

**The local economic and community development partners are critical in helping identify the local/regional needs of business. The local education institutions are critical in developing and providing needed short term certification programs that will provide the training needed to meet the identified skill gaps. The WSA staff will then channel identified under-skilled adults to the training programs, thereby preparing a workforce that will be capable of providing the labor that is critical in addressing the local/regional economies.**

**WSA 6 is involved in numerous collaborative projects with education and economic and community development partners which will add increase the ability to meet the skills needs of jobs and industries which are important to the local/regional economies and the needs of the under-skilled adults. Some of these collaborative projects include:**

- WIRED – MNREM – Career Awareness in Renewable Energy (CARE) – this project encompasses collaborative partners including private business, education (secondary and post-secondary), workforce development, economic development and business services;**
- FIRST/SMART Collaborative – this project has developed a comprehensive network of collaborative partners with a focus on building and strengthening the southwest region. As part of the FIRST/SMART Collaborative the team has collaborative on shared projects including CARE, Project GATE II, and other MNREM RFP's. This collaboration has leveraged approximately \$500,000 of additional resources for the region which will all lead to increasing the skills and needs of the under-skilled adults within the region;**
- Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project – WSA 6 through the FIRST/SMART Collaborative and the local WIB are active partners in the Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project. This project has completed an extensive asset mapping process and opportunities identification which will lead to major opportunities in addressing business and under-skilled adult needs.**

**WSA 6 focus for the ARRA Adult/Dislocated Worker funds will be to utilize at least 70% of the funds for training and training related support services, with the end result being participants receiving a certificate or diploma in high demand occupations.**