

**Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board  
Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Plan**

**July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011**

**LOWER MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Overview**

The Workforce Investment Act creates sustained work force improvement by partnering federal, state and regional private and public organizations and businesses. Regional improvements are guided and implemented by Workforce Investment Boards and their One-Stop Career Centers. Boards' and Centers' increased responsiveness to changing economic conditions are now especially needed to meet the workforce needs of established industries and critical, high growth economic sectors.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts strives to ensure that workforce development is an integral part of the state's economic development system. The long-term economic prosperity of the state is increasingly dependent upon a workforce that has the skills and abilities needed by our nationally and internationally competitive business community. The State must compete to grow and retain high quality jobs that allow our economy to grow and prosper. We must look for ways to foster higher skilled jobs that facilitate upwards mobility and that allow us to achieve more broad-based prosperity. The Commonwealth's and the Merrimack Valley's Workforce Investment Board's goal is to increase the employability of all work-eligible Massachusetts residents. In FY 2011, we are being asked to do more with less.

In this region, the Workforce Investment Act Annual Plan requires the demonstration of a partnership between the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Administrator at the City of Lawrence Department of Grants Management, and the One-Stop Career Center at ValleyWorks. The ValleyWorks Career Center is a workforce collaboration between the Department of Training and Development (DTD) and the Division of Career Services (DCS). ValleyWorks has two (2) comprehensive service sites, one based in the City of Lawrence and one in based in the City of Haverhill.

These agencies worked together to craft the Annual Workforce Development Plan for Fiscal Year 2011. The plan includes the integration of the state's planning priorities and an analysis update of local labor market conditions and regional characteristics. These two items, and ongoing public comment, drive the regional partners' response to Annual Plan budgeting and narrative questions.

The Lower Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board seeks comments from residents or workers in the following fifteen (15) cities and towns, collectively known as the Lower Merrimack Valley region: Andover, Amesbury, Boxford, Groveland, Georgetown, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

Planning for Fiscal Year 2011 poses a significant challenge due to unclear but large service needs amid continuing economic uncertainty at the national, state and local levels. Careful analysis and systemic flexibility are needed in order to respond quickly and effectively to potentially fluid conditions. The continued infusion of additional financial resources via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is possible but uncertain.

Last year, Congress and the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) consider ARRA as an opportunity for both states and local workforce areas to actively work with system partners to accelerate transformational efforts and innovative approaches to integrating workforce services more fully alongside economic development efforts. Priorities included maximizing the long-term economic well-being of area companies, individual workforce members and the community as a whole. In FY 11, four such ARRA programs will be running with FY 10-11 funds. At this time, we do not know if there will be additional ARRA funds.

The MVWIB analyzes, describes and addresses economic conditions that include local service and capacity elements; collaborative efforts and other aspects of planned service delivery. The FY2011 Annual Plan submission specifically asks us to answer two youth related narrative questions. Our current answers are available for review.

While state planning priorities for FY2011 continue to include the development of an integrated and responsive workforce system, a particular focus for FY2011 will be an emphasis on maintaining service delivery and service improvements while working with less funding. Significant client participation increases are expected across all services but, at this time, funding has been reduced by at least 7%. Please see detailed numbers below.

The MVWIB FY2011 Annual Plan endeavors to ensure that effective service and positive outcomes remain the focus for all local providers and that quality is not compromised in the wake of increased demand. Planned training activities are outlined in the attached charts along with their budgets. The attached budgets also outline how reduced funding is planned to be used for customer training, support and case management.

The MVWIB vision encompasses both short and long-term strategies designed to contribute to establishing and sustaining a prosperous regional economy. Please refer to our draft High Performing Workforce Investment Board Plan for additional information. It is also located on this MVWIB website. We welcome your comments on our draft High Performing Workforce Investment Board and annual plan documents both for FY2011 and for our future endeavors.

**TOTAL FY'11****Funds**

\$621,176.00	<b>WIB Funds - Planning and Monitoring</b>
\$545,251.34	<b>DGA Funds - Fiscal Administration</b>
\$2,194,304.20	<b>DCS Funds - Unemployment Benefit Office and Service Staff</b>
\$3,134,797.43	<b>DTD/VWCC Funds - Training and Support Case Management</b>
\$1,347,277.00	<b>Job Searching Employee Re-Training Funds</b>
\$120,479.00	<b>NRP &amp; SS Funds</b>
<hr/> <b>\$7,963,284.97</b>	<b>Total</b>
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**SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM FISCAL YEAR 2010  
TO FISCAL YEAR 2011**

<u>ALLOCATED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
WIA Youth	(\$165,977.00)	-16.04%
WIA Adult	(\$159,043.00)	-16.47%
WIA Dislocated Worker	\$93,817.00	12.55%
WIA Administration	(\$25,687.00)	-8.41%
Wagner Peyser	\$4,583.00	0.81%
Career Center One Stop	(\$14,343.00)	-8.31%
Navigator	(\$28,125.00)	-50.83%
Youthworks	(\$173,968.00)	-43.82%
Trade Case Management	(\$8,993.00)	-22.32%
 <b><u>FY10/11 NEW FUNDING - ACTUAL</u></b>		
Merrimack Valley Healthcare Career Partnership	\$199,994.00	
ARRA Summer Youth Supplemental	\$23,437.00	
ARRA Rapid Response Supplemental	\$204,680.00	
Interest Fines & Penalties (IFP)	\$45,862.00	
ReEmployment Eligibility Assessment (REA)	\$170,243.00	



<u>STAFFING CHANGES</u>	<u>Added/Reassigned</u>	<u>Reduced/ Eliminated</u>
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board	Workforce Program Development Manager (added)/Grants Manager (reassigned)	Two (2) Summer Youth Program Monitors (eliminated)/ Systems & Planning Director (eliminated)
Division of Grants Administration		/Development Manager (eliminated)/Grants Manager (reassigned)
ValleyWorks Career Center		Nine (9) Summer Youth Counselors One (1) Job Developer for Alcatel Lucent Two (2) Career Services Advisors for Alcatel Lucent One (1) Disability Program Navigator
Division of Career Services	One (1) REA Job Specialist	