



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628

Recovery Act Fund Spending Update

September 25, 2009

Youth Summer Work Experience

The Recovery Act provided \$2,116,109 for the Youth Summer Work Experience Program in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. Funds supported direct wages and training costs for youth as well as administrative costs for the program run by Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), a division of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) and administered by Michigan Works!/W. E. Upjohn Institute.

This program funded work experience for 1,005 youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. In order to qualify for the program, youth needed to meet the age requirement as well as household income guidelines and at-risk criteria. Employers throughout Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties partnered with the program to offer a variety of meaningful work experience opportunities including clerical, customer service, maintenance, child care, and many others at 174 worksites. Additionally, each participant was assigned a case manager who assisted with career readiness development.

To view the complete list of employers and worksites, please click below:

[Worksites in Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties](#)

Read about the value of this program from both youth and employers' perspectives.

- Tour of sites July 31, 2009 - [Program – Stories and Photos](#)
- State Representatives visit [Summer Youth Work Experience Sites](#)
- [Demographic Report from Youth Program Director](#)
- Watch this site for more stories and photos.

WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs

The Recovery Act affords funding intended to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the current economy. Our state's workforce development system is being used to provide programs and services that enable workers to retool their skills and re-establish them in viable career paths, benefits workers, employers, and ultimately the state's overall economic climate.

In addition to regular the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allocations for the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works! Area, the Recovery Act allocated funding in the amount of \$576,184 for the WIA Adult Program and \$1,027,004 for the WIA Dislocated Worker Program. The increase in funding was intended to supplement WIA activities and allowed a substantial increase in the number of individuals receiving training services in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. A significant portion of these Recovery Act funds were allocated to direct training through a mix of Individual Training Accounts (ITA) and [class-size occupational trainings](#).