

MWCA Best Practices

WIB Name/WSA: Rural Minnesota CEP

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MWCA Best Practices - 2008

RMCEP, Inc proposes Dislocated Worker Projects, Youth Career Advising, and Sector/Economic Development/Private Partnerships as “Best Practices” for the MWCA for 2008.

Dislocated Worker Projects

RMCEP, Inc. has been able to effectively deliver Dislocated Worker Services within Special Dislocated Worker Grants to those who have lost their jobs due to plant closing and or reduction in force. Many of our internal practices are time proven to produce results and are replicated internally allowing for efficient, effective and satisfying experience for job seekers.

Key Attributes:

RMCEP’s close relationship with major stakeholders - in rural communities, including education providers, economic developers, business partners, and community leaders, allows RMCEP to take a lead role in quickly mobilizing resources within our communities. This allows community stakeholders to take an active role in providing services that most closely match those needed by job seekers, while utilizing RMCEP’s project management expertise in guiding services.

RMCEP’s team centered, structured service delivery approach - allows resources from other teams in close geographic proximity to quickly mobilize to provide immediate intake, assessment, career information and counseling. Interest, aptitude testing and career exploration curriculum is provided in a structured service delivery approach allowing for rapid transition from a job loss to training or job seeking for a new career.

RMCEP’s close working relationship with the State Rapid Response Team and State DEED Offices - creates a streamlined partnership allowing for quick handoff of project and commencement of relevant services to job seekers. RMCEP’s expertise in working with the Employee Management Committee (EMC) to develop a Project Specific Proposal (PSP) allows for rapid deployment of results oriented services.

Youth Career Advising

RMCEP, Inc. has developed an innovative model for secondary school career counseling services, implemented a pilot project in Northern Minnesota, and been selected as the provider in a county wide collaborative focusing on career awareness for secondary school students in Central Minnesota. RMCEP’s Youth curriculum includes: *Career Planning, Career Possibilities, Job Search, and Orientation to Work Skills.*

Key Attributes:

RMCEP – in partnership with Clearwater County Social Services, the Bagley School District, and the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District - was able to utilize county funding to further expand career advisor services in career exploration, career counseling, job seeking strategies, college information, and assistance with financial aid applications for youth and families. RMCEP has been successful in helping over 100 students explore careers especially in high demand occupations, select post-

secondary opportunities and develop individual plans. The overall goal of the project is to help break the cycle of poverty by serving youth in a school setting while providing career information in coordination with secondary school counselors. The project has been approved for a second year. A key replication tip is to work closely with school guidance counselors so they experience the service as beneficial rather than competing.

RMCEP, in partnership with the Healthy Communities Collaborative of Morrison County (HCC) in Central Minnesota have been working together over the past year in preparation of implementing a county –wide project for career advising services in the Little Falls, Royalton, Pierz, Swanville, and Upsala Schools Districts. This project will serve over 1500 secondary students in grades 9 –12, with career advising services based on the pilot project. RMCEP and the Healthy Communities Collaborative have been chosen by a nationally known philanthropic organization – Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) for private source funding to support this project. Community partners include government, economic developers, educators and business entities.

Sector/Economic Development/Private Partnerships

RMCEP, Inc in partnership with economic developers, and area business has been successful in developing partnerships to support attainment of funding for a GWDC Sector Grant, implementing a healthcare career scholarship program and building the rural workforce in high pay – high demand occupations.

Key Attributes:

RMCEP has been successful in solidifying the link between Work Force Development, Economic Development and Private Healthcare Businesses - through a collaboration to support a GWCD Healthcare Sector Grant. Partners include all major Economic Development Authorities, and all major Healthcare Business providers in a 5 county area in Central Minnesota. The Project is in it's first year, having formulated major goals and objectives to carry through in a 3 year duration. Most recent objectives are to research and implement pilot projects in all major acute care facilities within the 5 county area of Economic Development Region 5.

RMCEP in partnership with Community Development of Morrison County - has been successful in developing a Healthcare Careers Scholarship Program for high school students interested in high pay – high demand occupations in the Healthcare Industry in the Central Minnesota communities of Little Falls, Pierz and Royalton. The program integrates career exploration, CNA certification, paid clinical experience, & placement of individuals in Rural Healthcare facilities. The program has been financially supported by private source funding from the Initiative Foundation, The CentraCare Foundation and the Bremer Foundation.