

Just in Time: Iowans in Transition (Iowa Commission on the Status of Women)

Project Director: Barbara Grandstaff

Contact Information: bgrandstaff@iowalakes.edu

Phone: 712-852-5232

New Award: \$19,000

Term: 07/01/05-06/30/06

This project provides 150 (***unduplicated***) displaced homemakers (*as defined by the agency*), single parents, or female offenders with transition services or other support services with the ultimate goal of assisting each participant in achieving economic self-sufficiency through education, training and/or transition services. Participants will reside in counties served by Iowa Lakes Community College district. While participants will primarily reside in Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth or Palo Alto counties, some may reside in an adjacent county.

Eligible participants may access *Just in Time for Iowans in Transition* services through Iowa Lakes *Career Resources Center*, Student Support Services TRiO program, Adult Basic Education courses, ESL courses and other community based organizations. Each of the 150 unduplicated participants will receive *Just in Time Core Services* that shall include a minimum of three personal contacts by the Project Coordinator, and may include a wide menu of follow-up services. *Core Services* will be individualized to serve the assessed needs of the participant and the *transition pathway* chosen. Regardless of transition pathway option chosen, *Core Services* will include –

- ✚ Complete an Intake Application and Needs Assessment
- ✚ Develop an Individual Career/Action Plan
- ✚ Provide Financial Assistance to Eligible Participants with Greatest Need (*Matrix, p. 11*)
- ✚ Refer participant to appropriate support services external to the project, and/or
- ✚ Plan for continuing support services provided by project activities.

Follow-up activities will be tailored to each participant's identified needs and the appropriate transition pathway chosen to achieve economic self-sufficiency: [1] Employability Skills Development & Work Transition Support, or [2] Educational Transition and Support.

Community Support: The *Just in Time: Iowans in Transition* project enjoys a high level of community support and agency linkage. The project advisory committee includes representatives from several social service agencies in each of the five counties, representatives from business and industry, Workforce Investment Act staff, Latino community, college personnel and displaced homemakers who have in the past or are currently receiving project services. The Career Resource Center Advisory Committee reaffirmed recently that the displaced worker population in Area III is growing steadily and acknowledged that existing services are barely adequate to meet the need. Local communities support the project wholeheartedly and recognize the project as an enhancement to those in existence.

Iowa Lakes Community College has a 16 year tradition of receiving funds from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women through an annual competition.