



Pillar Group Report: Pillar 1 Workforce and Economic Development

Date: 09-11-08

Mission - Strengthen businesses in the NCI target area by connecting them with resources and residents; and raise awareness of employment opportunities and resources to residents.

Strategy I – Connect NCI target area residents with information about employment and training opportunities.

Activities –

- Established one telephone number to call and get assistance to employment and training opportunities:771-6682
 - Phone line answered by dedicated Workforce Center staff person
- Employment subcommittee has worked to identify and meet with employers in the area to learn about jobs available and what the employer looks for in an applicant.
 - Meeting and subsequent Employment Specialist training held with Via Christi
 - Spreading the word to all participating NCI agencies about other numerous job opportunities
 - Contacts identified at Transit Authority to pursue collaboration for area residents.

Next Steps –

- Provide additional outreach and diversify communications methods (reach more people) regarding job opportunities
- Identify and meet with additional area employers
- Meet with Transit Authority to discuss collaboration opportunities

Baseline Impact – Agencies that have not previously partnered to provide services now work together to serve the target population; Target area residents provided information regarding area services.

Strategy II – Identify mechanisms to spur economic and business development

Activities –

- Economic Development subcommittee brainstormed outreach methods

Next Steps –

- Continue to pursue outreach methods, and collect information from area businesses regarding their needs and visions for the future of the area.