



The Workforce Investment System is Not Meeting It's Commitment to Train Displaced Homemakers to Succeed in Today's Workforce

Many displaced homemakers—unemployed and underemployed individuals seeking to re-enter the workforce after time out caring for family members—require significant skill upgrades to attain jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency. Yet, displaced homemakers continue to slip through the cracks of our workforce development system. In 1998, Congress eliminated funding set-asides for displaced homemakers in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, intending that these populations would be served through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). However, displaced homemakers are vastly under-served by the current One-Stop system. In PY2003, for example, displaced homemakers comprised only 1.5 percent of the dislocated worker population provided with intensive or training services under WIA.ⁱ

Displaced Homemakers Served by WIA Number of Exiters from Dislocated Worker Program April 2003 - March 2004			
State	Displaced Homemakers Served by WIA ⁱⁱ	Total Displaced Homemakers in Poverty ⁱⁱⁱ	Percentage Served by WIA
Alabama	6	61,843	0.01%
Alaska	44	5,017	0.88%
Arizona	64	54,002	0.12%
Arkansas	6	42,705	0.01%
California	247	315,238	0.08%
Colorado	15	33,460	0.04%
Connecticut	11	22,253	0.05%
Delaware	7	6,218	0.11%
District of Columbia	64	7,840	0.82%
Florida	78	238,336	0.03%
Georgia	18	74,038	0.02%
Hawaii	1	13,180	0.01%
Idaho	55	13,840	0.40%
Illinois	32	100,854	0.03%
Indiana	47	71,623	0.07%
Iowa	7	27,730	0.03%



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Kansas	10	20,838	0.05%
Kentucky	11	63,684	0.02%
Louisiana	11	65,386	0.02%
Maine	20	21,965	0.09%
Maryland	52	24,441	0.21%
Massachusetts	6	64,647	0.01%
Michigan	398	104,689	0.38%
Minnesota	7	31,732	0.02%
Mississippi	310	51,894	0.60%
Missouri	30	32,236	0.09%
Montana	21	13,658	0.15%
Nebraska	5	12,949	0.04%
Nevada	11	18,153	0.06%
New Hampshire	2	7,110	0.03%
New Jersey	4	59,970	0.01%
New Mexico	13	29,249	0.04%
New York	356	177,288	0.20%
North Carolina	85	143,894	0.06%
North Dakota	1	6,523	0.02%
Ohio	69	132,843	0.05%
Oklahoma	17	41,216	0.04%
Oregon	111	56,690	0.20%
Pennsylvania	12	125,812	0.01%
Rhode Island	0	10,787	0.00%
South Carolina	20	55,767	0.04%
South Dakota	2	8,481	0.02%
Tennessee	23	94,593	0.02%
Texas	27	236,277	0.01%



Displaced Homemakers Served by WIA Number of Exiters from Dislocated Worker Program April 2003 – March 2004			
State	Displaced Homemakers Served by WIA ⁱⁱ	Total Displaced Homemakers in Poverty ⁱⁱⁱ	Percentage Served by WIA
Utah	6	20,981	0.03%
Vermont	1	6,682	0.01%
Virginal	9	70,745	0.01%
Washington	93	83,949	0.11%
West Virginia	83	32,280	0.26%
Wisconsin	75	31,408	0.24%
Wyoming	12	5,402	0.22%
Total	2,615	3,052,396	0.09%

Note: The participation data presented in this brief are drawn from the Workforce Investment Act Standard Record Data (WIASRD), an individual-level data set reported annually by States to the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. A record is required for each dislocated worker and adult served by the program, except for individuals receiving self-service or informational activities. Individual records for dislocated workers must indicate whether the participant can be categorized as a displaced homemaker: defined by WIA law as, “ an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who: (1) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income, (2) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.”

ⁱ 2004 *WIASRD Data Book*, Social Policy Research Associates, February 2, 2006. This version of the Data Book uses data provided by States in their PY2004 submissions, which contain information on individuals who finished their participation in WIA in PY2004, PY2003, and PY2002.

ⁱⁱ Accessed 4.26.07 via the Federal Research and Evaluation Database (FRED) at <http://www.fred-info.org/WIA.htm>.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2003 Supplement.