



## News Release

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### **State gives out \$14.2 million in training grants**

*Regions could obtain additional \$1.5 million for exceeding targets*

INDIANAPOLIS (August 29, 2006) -- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has concluded its initial round of Strategic Skills Initiative grants to the state's eleven economic growth regions, handing out more than \$14 million this summer. A final grant of \$975,000 was awarded earlier this month to economic growth region 9, a ten-county area in southeast Indiana.

In June, the state announced grants to the other ten regions, awarding more than \$13.2 million to support a variety of training initiatives aimed at eliminating shortage occupations and skills projected for the state of Indiana.

The department has established an incentive fund for regions which exceed their local goals and targets established under the initiatives. Regions can earn up to an additional ten percent of their funding if they exceed these objectives. The incentive pool will be approximately \$1.5 million statewide.

The \$14.2 million in grants the state has provided the regions will be used to fund 46 specific initiatives. A total of 6,300 workers will receive training under the program, with 3,650 earning either a nationally recognized credential or degree, and 2,350 ultimately placed in shortage occupations.

"This initiative aims to better align our economic and workforce development efforts in a way to train Hoosiers for good paying jobs," said Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "It is designed to meet the needs of Hoosier employers by identifying the key occupations and skills that we know will be in demand."

Key sectors targeted under the program include advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, health care, agribusiness, and entrepreneurship.

The Department of Workforce Development has also established two state action teams in health care and manufacturing to address the projected occupational and skills shortages in these industries on a statewide basis. Up to \$4 million will be used to fund solutions that are proposed through these action teams.

Research conducted by the regions in the early phase of the grant program found three main root causes for the projected occupational and skills shortages: lack of education and training capacity, a lack of career awareness, and employer recruitment and retention practices.

More detailed information on the Strategic Skills Initiative can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/ssi.html>

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

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Attached: summary of Strategic Skills Initiative grants



## Strategic Skills Initiative Snapshot

Governor Daniels' Strategic Skills Initiative (SSI) was developed to address Indiana's critical job shortages and to increase opportunities and wages for Hoosier workers. Throughout the state, money has been awarded and solutions identified to encourage economic growth and better paying jobs across the state's 11 economic growth regions.

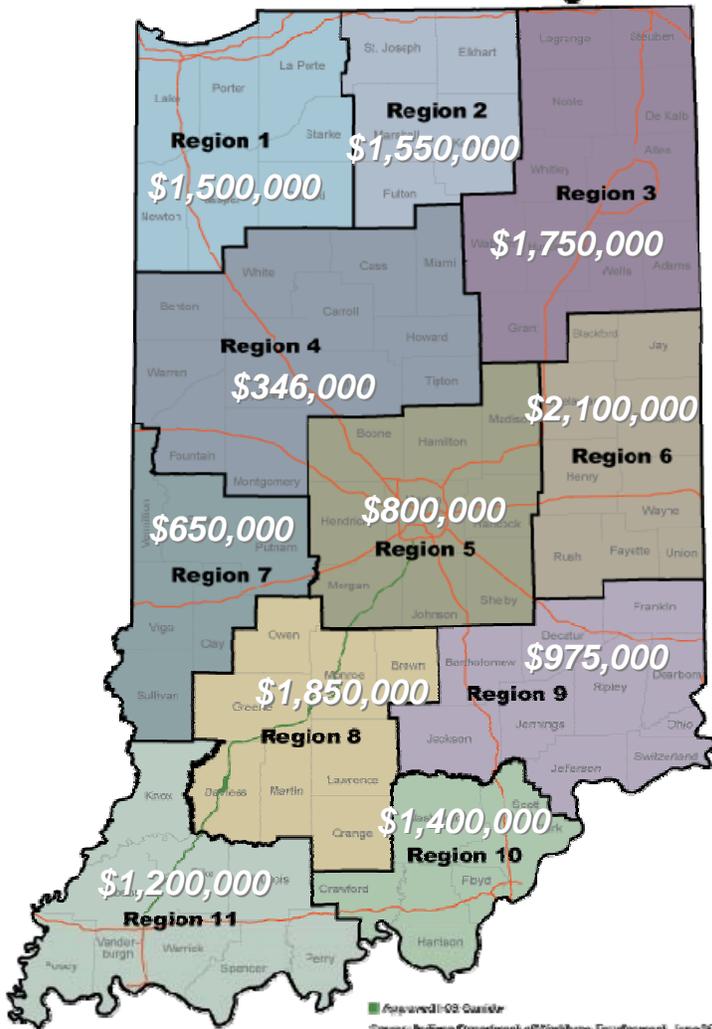
In 2006, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development invested more than \$14 million throughout the state for the initiative. The initial investment, to be followed up by a continuing effort, will ensure that Hoosiers have access to high skill, high wage jobs for the future.

## Initial Impact on Indiana's Industries



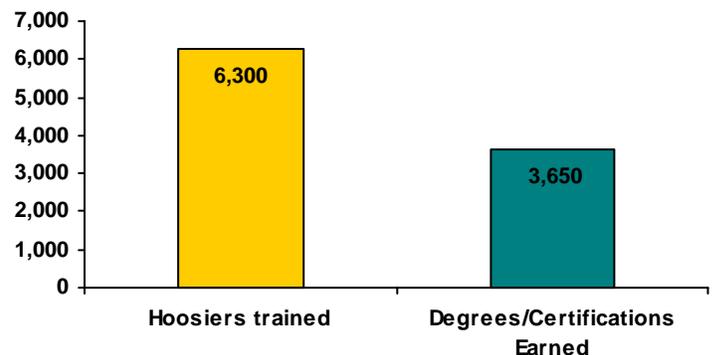
## Initial Impact on Indiana's Regions

### Economic Growth Regions



## Initial Impact on Indiana's Workforce

Skill Advancement Outcomes



## Initial Impact on Indiana's Occupations

- 2,350 Hoosiers placed in shortage occupations
- 200+ business plans developed
- 9+ new businesses started
- 5+ new faculty positions created



## 1. Regional Snapshots by Industry

Industry:

*Advanced  
Manufacturing*

Dollars:

*\$3,129,781*

**Region 1:** Fill shortage occupations with Radio Frequency Identification Training, advanced welding and management training.

**Region 2:** Advance the area's Biotech industry with innovative training in advanced manufacturing.

**Region 3:** Train workforce for advanced manufacturing needs in the medical device industry and train for skills demanded by emerging occupations,

**Region 4:** Train workforce in advanced manufacturing to fill shortage occupations.

**Region 5:** Will fill shortage occupations throughout the region by developing skills for workers within the manufacturing, logistics and automotive industries

**Region 7:** Educate existing and emerging workers in methods of advanced manufacturing so they may secure high wage opportunities.

**Region 9:** Offer an embedded systems cluster to address the need for skilled workers in computerized control software. Supervisors will be trained in leadership skills to maximize efficiency.

**Region 10:** Will provide advanced manufacturing training through two initiatives to plug critical regional job shortages

**Region 11:** Increase awareness in the manufacturing industry by focusing on Industrial Maintenance Training Solutions and offering short term customized solutions.

## 2. Healthcare

Industry:

*Healthcare*

Dollars:

*\$4,502,159*

**Region 1:** Boost training capacity at Purdue University North Central and Purdue University Calumet by expanding faculty pool.

**Region 2:** Will create additional Master's degree faculty positions to the nursing program at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) and increase opportunities for nursing careers among Spanish speaking Hoosiers. Region 2 will also utilize nursing simulators.

**Region 3:** Fill vacant nursing positions and increase training capacity through a clearinghouse program and English language training and create a scholarship program for training in polysomnography and ultrasound technology.

**Region 8:** Utilize clinical simulation to provide nursing students with state of the art training and increase region's nursing certifications.

**Region 9 :** Will boost capacity at Ivy Tech Community College campuses across the region and introduce a forgivable loan program for Master's students willing to teach classes.

**Region 10:** Provide entry-level training to nursing students entering the industry, incumbent nurse training and mentoring program.

**Region 11:** Utilize a Mobile MEDIC training facility and hire additional faculty to address a nursing shortage in the region.



<p><b>3.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Entrepreneurship</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$1,370,647</i></p>	<p><b>Region 6:</b> Work with high school and Ball State University MBA students to develop business plans. Students will receive guidance from seasoned entrepreneurs. Initiative will result in the formation of small business ventures and entrepreneurs in Indiana.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Biotechnology</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$2,887,974</i></p>	<p><b>Region 2:</b> Create an Orthopedic Skills Center to fill skill gaps in the region's growing orthopedic industry, develop virtual reality training to aid biotechnology, advanced materials, bioscience and nanotechnology training.</p> <p><b>Region 3:</b> Establish Center for Advanced Manufacturing to focus on medical device industry's skill needs through utilization of virtual reality and robotics/CNS technologies.</p> <p><b>Region 8:</b> Create the Indiana Biomanufacturing and Training Institute to facilitate growth of biotechnology and advanced manufacturing jobs in the region</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Agri-Business</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$977,795</i></p>	<p><b>Region 6:</b> Support agri-science and agri-business ventures in the region by directing award monies towards plan formation, technology assessments and feasibility studies</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Logistics</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$747,708</i></p>	<p><b>Region 1:</b> Implement a 10 week advanced logistics training program to position the region for leadership in Indiana's logistical technology industry.</p> <p><b>Region 3:</b> Develop a logistics-based curriculum in partnership with Ivy Tech Community College.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Skills Based Solutions</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$468,116</i></p>	<p><b>Region 5:</b> Fill shortage occupations throughout Region 5 by developing skills for workers within the manufacturing, logistics and automotive industries</p> <p><b>Region 7:</b> Advance skills of unemployed and students in region to develop skills needed for the areas emerging and shortage occupations. WorkKeys assessments will help high school students identify potential career paths.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p> <p>Industry: <i>Hospitality</i></p> <p>Dollars: <i>\$141,500</i></p>	<p><b>Region 8:</b> Create a scholarship program for students pursuing degrees in hospitality management so that the region can fill shortage occupations in this emerging industry.</p>