

DSS/Job Boost II Employment Program Update

Earlier this year, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services awarded a \$1,980,000 grant to the Community Resources Division of DSS for the North Carolina Job Boost II Program. The Job Boost II Program coordinates job placements for residents eligible for the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which serves Work First customers.

People chosen to participate in the Job Boost II program have the opportunity for employment in jobs that pay, on average, \$7.25 to \$12 dollars per hour. Types of job placements have included manufacturing, automotive services, educational services, retail, animal care and rescue, warehouse distribution and clerical.

Currently, the Job Boost II Team at DSS has placed 411 people in jobs through the subsidized employment program. This total has exceeded the program's goal. Of the 411 participants, 109 people are still employed in the positions that were obtained through Job Boost II program placement. A total of 43 who completed their 20-week wage subsidy have been hired in permanent positions.

On March 16, the program stopped accepting new Job Boost II applications to ensure actual program spending was within the grant allocation amount. County Finance Department staff is calculating the actual spending against the grant allocation to determine if there is additional funding available from the original grant amount. If so, DSS staff will work with job developers

and employers to establish additional subsidized employment placements, averaging 5-6 weeks.

Below is a list of community partners, job developers and businesses that are working with DSS staff on the Job Boost II program:

- Accord Roofing
- Animal Control
- Anita Goodesign
- Ashley Home Furniture
- Belk Distribution Center
- Bonded Logistics
- Brisbane Academy
- Center for Community Transitions
- Cinda Inc.
- Coinstar
- Christian Academy Daycare
- Discovery Place
- Dystar
- Folger Automotive
- Goodwill Retail Stores
- Goodworks Staffing
- Mallard Creek Learning Center
- Morris Costumes
- Moss Counseling
- Pennies4HOPE
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Probuild Production
- Resourceful Solutions
- Sauceman's Inc.
- The Men's Shelter
- Staffmark
- TJ Maxx Retail Stores
- TJ Maxx Distribution Center
- Unifirst

-- Harry L. Jones, Sr., County Manager