

## **Workforce Development in Region**

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in Milwaukee County is the Private Industry Council (PIC). Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties combine to form the WOW as their WIB. Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties have a tri-county WIB.

In the tri-county model, they utilize a WIB board with members from the three counties. This board meets twice a year and they have an agreement on the level of funding (i.e. Racine at 50%, Kenosha at 36% and Walworth at 14%). Each county then has its own board that meets on a more frequent basis.

In the case of Racine County, they consolidated all of the WIB staff into their Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Specifically, Workforce Development became a division of DHHS. The funding that would otherwise go into a separate building and organization goes directly into their workforce program.

In addition, they consolidated all of their jobs programs into the same place in DHHS. They combined economic development programs with workforce development programs. They used CDBG funds to advance employment and training programs. They are also connected to other services sometimes needed by those seeking assistance with workforce issues (i.e. child care assistance, Medicaid eligibility, etc.).

## **Possible Alternatives**

Move to consolidate the staff operations of the current WIB agency in Milwaukee County (PIC) into the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Include all other programs related to economic and community development into the same division to create a one-stop location for jobs information and assistance.

Consolidate the staff operations of the current WIB agency in Milwaukee County into a new Department of Workforce and Economic Development within Milwaukee County.

Create an umbrella WIB board that covers the entire 7-county region (similar to the current tri-county). The organization could follow the work set up by the Regional Workforce Alliance (RWA) through the WIRED grant and the economic development work of the Milwaukee 7.

Consolidate all of the Income Maintenance (IM) functions done by the counties (eligibility for daycare, Medicaid, Food Shares, etc.) into a regional program.