



Business Services Connects Participant to Job at Kraft

After 22 years as a production worker, Joe was laid off from IKO Chicago, a manufacturing company. Without recent job search experience and a mortgage to pay, Joe was stressed and afraid. “I knew I didn’t have the skills to find employment on my own,” he said.

United Steel Workers Local 1210 setup a workshop where Joe learned about the CFL Workers Assistance Committee’s **Dislocated Worker Program**. After enrolling, Joe received several employment services and attended our 72-hour Basic Skills Program to update his math and reading skills. Over the next several months, Joe followed through on job leads and interviews, but he had yet to receive an offer. With financial hardship looming, Joe requested a loan modification from his mortgage lender and was denied. Joe met with the CFL Workers Assistance Committee’s Business Services Manager, John Bradarich. “I really thought I might lose my home but after meeting with John I felt better,” said Joe. “John helped me and would call me with interviews. And I would drop everything and go.”

Persistence Pays Off

In October 2010, Joe’s persistence paid off. John arranged for Joe to interview with ServiceWorks, a WIA partner, for a production trainee position at Kraft Foods in Chicago. Joe was offered the full-time, full-benefits job at Kraft. Joe already received a wage increase to \$16.14 per hour. After one year, he will receive another raise.

“The hardest thing for me was that I knew I was a reliable, hard worker but companies were not seeing that,” said Joe. The CFL Workers Assistance Committee helped me get interviews and **taught** me how to show companies that I am a good worker.”

Joe plans to work hard for another 10 years, until he can retire and enjoy life!

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Joe Taylor participated in the Dislocated Worker Program and was placed at Kraft Food with the help of our Business Services Team.

Read more employment success stories at www.cflwac.org.

ETIP Helps Companies and Employees Stay Competitive

Nearly 9,000 workers in Cook County were trained in 2010 using reimbursement grants provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's **Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)**.

The CFL Workers Assistance Committee awarded more than \$680,000 in funds to support the skills-enhancement training of workers, so they remain competitive in the global workplace. ETIP helps to enhance and upgrade workers' skills to keep pace with new technologies and business practices. This, in turn, helps businesses increase productivity, reduce costs, improve quality and boost competitiveness. ETIP grants reimburse unions and businesses for up to 50% of their training costs.

"The ETIP training reimbursement funds for businesses and union have had a remarkable effect in inspiring businesses and unions to support and encourage employee training," said **John Bradarich**, Business Services Manager, CFL Workers Assistance Committee.

ETIP by the numbers (2010):

- ▶ **Nearly 9,000**
Cook County workers trained
- ▶ **More than \$680,000**
awarded
- ▶ **Up to 50%**
of union and business training
costs reimbursed

MEET OUR BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM



John Bradarich
Business Services Manager



EveLyne Pullum
Business Services Associate



Brandon Miller
Account Executive

Our Business Services Team delivers placement services to both job seekers and businesses. Recruitment and training services are tailored to each individual employer. In addition to connecting businesses to pre-screened, highly qualified candidates, we also cover up to 90% of the cost for training new hires or current employees.

Visit our website to find out more about our business services team.

Workers Rally to Save Job Training Programs

Workers rallied on Thursday, March 24, at the James R. Thompson Center with labor, business and community leaders urging Congress to stop proposed FY 2011 national cutbacks for employment and job training programs.

Protesters marched and chanted, “You say cut back. We say fight back” demonstrating the importance of an economic recovery that includes jobs, workforce development and education programs.

Lead by the **Chicago Federation of Labor**, a local alliance organized the rally in response to the National Skills Coalition’s (NSC) call for a **National Workforce Day of Action**. The NSC is a broad-based coalition seeking to raise the skills of America’s workers across a range of industries.

The recent federal Continuing Resolution includes \$830 million in cuts to key job training programs, including a reduction of \$307 million for the Workforce Investment Act youth, adult and dislocated worker programs.

Job training programs will continue to be at risk during the FY2012 budget negotiations. **It’s important that we *take action* by telling Congress to support job training and education!**



Congressman Danny Davis and President of Chicago Federation of Labor Jorge Ramirez participate in the rally for a National Workforce Day of Action at the James R. Thompson Center.

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The CFL Workers Assistance Committee is a unique 501(c)(3) organization developed, sponsored and endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor. Founded in 1994, our mission is to develop and enhance the skills of Chicago area workers to meet the needs of area employers and vitalize the local economy.