

Sheltered Workshops: Employment Option Transition Survey

March 2011

Melissa Melton, Supervisor, Effective Practices

For More Information, contact: Fulvio Franzi, Director, DESE-ESSW @ (573) 751-3547 or via email at Fulvio.Franzi@dese.mo.gov.

Overview

In order to collect data regarding transition from sheltered workshop employment into supported or competitive employment, the following survey was administered in December 2010 via the web to all 92 sheltered workshops in Missouri. Sixty eight (68) workshops responded; of these, one did not provide any answers, leaving 67 valid responses for a 72.8% response rate.

Aside from the workshop's title, the following seven questions were asked on this survey:

1. How many certified employees does your workshop currently employ?
2. How many employees were either referred or chose to go to *supported* employment between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010?
3. How many employees who went on to *supported* employment have since returned to the workshop?
4. Of those employees who returned to the workshop after *supported* employment, how many are now actively employed?
5. How many employees were either referred or chose to go to *competitive* employment between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010?
6. How many employees who went on to *competitive* employment have since returned to the workshop?
7. Of those employees who returned to the workshop after *competitive* employment, how many are now actively employed?

Results

A total of **4,912** employees were reportedly working at the 67 workshops who responded to this survey. The following table shows the breakdown of these employees between supported and competitive employment categories:

Sheltered Workshops: Employment Option Transition Survey

March 2011

Sheltered Workshop Employees...	n	%
Total	4,912	100%
referred or chose to go to <i>supported</i> employment	69	1.4%
— have since returned to the workshop	20	29%
— returned and now actively employed	16	80%
— <i>those employed in a supportive setting</i>	49	71%
referred or chose to go to <i>competitive</i> employment	75	1.5%
— have since returned to the workshop	29	38.7%
— returned and now actively employed	29	100%
— <i>those competitively employed</i>	46	61.3%

Conclusion

Overall, less than 2% of employees have been referred or chose to go to supported or competitive employment; however, once supported or competitive employment has been achieved, less than 40% return from competitive and less than 30% return from supported. Of those who leave but do return to the workshop, the majority are currently employed there.