

MASWM Report
January 24-25, 2012

By
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This report is provided to the Board of Directors and the General Membership of the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers (MASWM) on relevant activities and issues relating to the Extended Employment Sheltered Workshop Section of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Key topics are as follows:

Budget:

The available program fund for the Sheltered Workshop Program for FY-12 is \$23,983,955. To date, \$15,222,628 has been distributed for the first seven months of the fiscal year. The current average monthly request is \$2,174,661. At the current average rate of request/expenditure, the projected “shortfall” is **four weeks**.

Please keep in mind that this projection does NOT account for conditions that may affect attendance, such as weather. Missouri is projected to have a mild and dry winter this year; if this comes true, the projected “shortfall” may be greater. Plan accordingly.

Workshop Data:

Significant changes are occurring in the Workshop system. Some of the changes are:

	OCT 2011	JAN 2012	CHANGE
Certified Workers	7,062	6,991	- 71
Full Time Equiv. (FTE)	5,826	5,710	- 116
Waiting List	1,168	1,239	+ 71

This most current data, as compared to what has been reported in the previous quarter, indicates a definite trend of decline in both the actual numbers of workers and the FTE census as well as an increase in the number of persons waiting for employment in the Workshops. The Waiting list data is that which is derived from the Certified Workers presently in the DESE web system; a number of Workshops report that they have applicants on their waiting list that have NOT been sent to the certification process—the list may be longer but without a survey, the list may be higher.

The speculation is that the general economic condition and increased competition in the labor market has impacted the extended employment program.

DESE/DNR Recycling Grants:

As of this writing, four Workshops have been identified as the likely finalists to receive the grants but an official announcement has been delayed due to an “administrative” delay. There were 27 applicants for the available \$300,000 in grant funds. The ones that were selected scored high on the selection criteria, met the intended goals of the grant and were determined to have the most impact in their respective areas.

Missouri National Guard/Recycling:

Our office has been contacted by Sgt. Joseph Spencer of the Missouri National Guard regarding partnering with Workshops throughout the state for possible recycling opportunities. He will make a brief presentation at the Association meeting and will be available after the meeting to talk with interested workshops.