

DESE Report for the  
Sheltered Workshop Program  
October 6, 2014

**Budget:**

The FY-15 current available appropriation for the Sheltered Workshop Program is \$24,039,953. The FY-15 October request and payment was \$2,158,262 and the average monthly rate of request to date is \$2,144,098. If this average rate of expenditure is maintained for the remainder of the fiscal year, there is a 15 day projected or anticipated shortfall based on the current level of available funding. Although the Governor's veto of \$500,000 was overridden by the Legislature, the Governor's office has not released the funds back to the Sheltered Workshop budget at this writing. There are too many fiscal variables to make any credible budget projections at this time.

Currently there are 6,872 Certified Workers employed in the workshops (-126 from previous report), the current FTE (30 hours/week) is 5,286 (-318 from previous report), and the "Waiting to be Hired" list is 1,635 (+ 54 from previous report). The average hourly wage is \$3.24 (+ \$0.11 from previous report) and the total number of hours worked to date is 2,795,314.

At their September meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Department's FY-16 budget recommendations for \$26,283,457 and a FY-15 supplemental request of \$1,500,000 to be submitted to the Governor's Office. The submitted requests are the Department's best estimate for "full funding" of the Sheltered Workshop Program for the current and next fiscal years.

**DESE-EESW:**

The office is still in the process of reviewing the impending changes to the "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act" (WIOA) and coordinating with appropriate and related agencies in its eventual implementation. These changes will affect several procedures for employee eligibility to the program and accountability for employment outcomes of persons with disabilities. We will provide the Workshop management with updates as to what those changes will be and requirements of the workshops, if any.

The FY-13 Sheltered Workshop Program Summary Report is posted on the DESE-Sheltered Workshop website. Please take the time to read the report and see the important data it contains. Each Workshop has its individual data but this will give each of you a perspective of the entire program and the significant impact that it makes to persons with disabilities in Missouri.

**US-DOL—WH/OSHA:**

As the Section 14, c audits conducted by the Wage and Hour Division continue, the biggest areas of scrutiny remain to be the Prevailing Wages, complete and accurate Task Analyses, and Worker Evaluations (especially those paid at hourly rates). All workshops are encouraged to review their process and procedure to ensure that required regulatory obligations to pay Commensurate Wages under the provisions of Section 14,c are met.

OSHA is conducting inspections throughout the system. Their primary area of review appears to be electrical safety especially related to Lockout/Tag-out of power equipment. Be sure that all unattended/unused equipment energy sources are neutralized to prevent inadvertent activation or use by unauthorized

personnel. Be sure to have all machine and operator training records current and available for their review. Keep records current for all applicable safety programs. It appears that the primary industry focus is that of recycling industry operations.

**Training:**

Four of the five Regional Safety Training seminars sponsored by SWIM, MAWM, and DESE are completed; the final session will be held at the Springfield Workshop on October 29 and 30. So far, the sessions have been well attended.

The OSHA lead investigator from the Kansas City District Office and the St. Louis District Office have agreed to make a presentation at the October 7<sup>th</sup> MASWM conference. A DMH representative will make a brief presentation regarding the "Spend-down" affecting a number of workers in workshops. Workshops are encouraged to present training topics on items related to workshops to the MASWM Training Chairperson.