

Individual and Family Economic Stability Team Notes – May 6, 2010

Next Meetings:

Cross Team Meeting -Thursday, May 27th 4:30-7:30 (food at 4:00) at Runnell's Hall
Community Feedback Forum – Thursday, June 17th 6:00-8:00 pm (food at 5:30)

Homework:

1. Think about who to invite to the June 17th meeting
2. For meetings after June 17, think about if the team meeting time and date work for the group? 1st or 2nd Thursday of the month still good? Noon or another time?

Group agreed that the mindset has to change from how we are now to the wellbeing of our children in the future. What we do today will affect their lives.

Action Areas:

Employee-Friendly Policies

- Define employee-friendly policies
- Attend Conference on Policies on June 11 – Malcolm Smith report will be released (Ann H., others?)
- NH Employment Security data regarding benefits (baseline) – we can get overall rates for the counties and overall rates for business sectors overall for NH; can we get benefits rates by sector for Carroll County? By sub-regions? (Anecdotally hearing that uninsured rate for MWV is around 40%)

Workforce Development

- What training is being planned now to respond to expected job growth opportunities including green or other up-and-coming technologies?

Buy Local

- One challenge is that local products or purchasing from locally-owned stores can cost more. Is it realistic to expect people already struggling to pay more for things?
- Other buy-local efforts ask people to shift 10% of their purchases to local.
- Buy local can also be aimed at visitors; ask to support the local area they are visiting.
 - Define local – do we mean made in Carroll County or business owned within CC? Both we think. Carroll County rather than each town.
 - Marketing campaign for county
 - Buy from locally-owned businesses and buy locally grown, produced goods and services.
 - I.D. local businesses (locally owned and/or does the business buy local?)

Year-round livable wage jobs

- Have a clearer picture of actual wages for various jobs. Currently have state data for average wages, can we get regional?
- What is “higher” wage job vs. “livable” wage job? Livable wage is defined differently by different people, depending on their lifestyles.
- Create a public relations campaign on the impact of lower-wage jobs in the community.

Longer term

- Create cooperative between employers to share costs to provide benefits for seasonal & part-time workers

Buy Local	
Conduct study in county (of impact of buying local) to pinpoint county-specific issues (compared to that of Portland, OR)	Post-90 days
Identify ways to bring other businesses that would increase livable wage to Carroll County	
Other	
Determine if there are things we're getting passed over for because of our rural location in Carroll County.**	
Bring Consumer Credit Counseling Service of NH/VT to Carroll County?	
Get families who are good at managing their money to act as "peer mentors"	
Reach out to Family Resource Management team of UNH Cooperative Extension	
Increase community awareness of the importance to work hard to get skills to earn a higher wage	
Year-Round Livable Wages	
Define "higher" wage and jobs that fit that wage	
Define "livable" wage and jobs that fit that wage	

Earlier team notes & documents as well as those of the other action teams available at www.carrollcountyunited.org.