
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

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County residents may find help for their careers at CareerForce

Washington County residents will be able to find help to advance their careers at the county's WorkForce centers, which will be rebranded CareerForce in the fall.

The county has three WorkForce centers, in Woodbury, Cottage Grove, and Forest Lake, where residents may find a collaboration of partners whose goal it is to bring job seekers and businesses together to help them meet their needs. The Washington County WorkForce Center administers programs targeted to dislocated workers, low-income adults, disadvantaged youth and young adults, welfare-to-work participants, and low-income seniors.

The new name CareerForce will emphasize that the centers are available to all county residents, regardless of the point where they are in their career. Too often, residents see the centers exclusively as resources for those who have lost their jobs, or who are transitioning from using public assistance to entering the workforce.

The rebranding is being spurred by the state Department of Employment and Economic Development, based on statewide surveys and interviews with WorkForce Center employees and clients. Findings from the surveys were that employers believe that they cannot find mid-level or highly-skilled workers to fill their vacancies. Findings also emphasize that the centers need to be focused on working toward career advancement for customers, as well as creating a system that is easy to navigate, makes it easier for people to engage with services, and that leaves individuals with a desire to continue to use the services available. The WorkForce Center also needed to be seen as proactive, flexible, and engaged with the community.

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

It is expected that CareerForce centers will promote financial stability for individuals, and be a source of a respected talent pool for employees, resulting in collaboration for innovation and economic growth for Minnesota.

County residents may expect to see the new brand in CareerForce Centers by the beginning of October.

For more information, see the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us and search WorkForce Center.