MAWIB dislocated worker clients live throughout the county, most are not receiving unemployment insurance payments, and nearly 2/3 have driver's license issues.

The Employment and Training Institute reviewed records for MAWIB clients in the dislocated worker program to help improve the effectiveness of services.

Few clients are currently receiving unemployment insurance payments. Only 12% have UI benefits remaining, 51% have exhausted their benefits, and 37% showed no recent UI payments. (Half of the 12% of clients still receiving UI payments have less than 12 weeks left.)

The driver's license status of dislocated worker clients was reviewed to assess workers' ability to access jobs throughout the metro area. A majority (63%) of clients faced license problems:
- 22% had a license but with recent suspensions and revocations.
- 21% lost their license since 2008.
- 20% had no license (including 2% with no license but recorded suspensions and revocations).

Only 37% of the clients had a current license and no recent suspensions and revocations.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment: The City of Milwaukee unemployment rate was estimated at 9.7% for December 2010. Suburban unemployment was estimated at 5.8%.

Workers on UI: In the second week of February 2011, 41,645 Milwaukee County workers were laid-off and receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks, and 4,280 more claimants (54% males, 46% females) applied for benefits. Half of the new claimants were minorities.

Firm closings and mass layoffs: 1 firm (U.S. Bancorp) issued a new mass layoff notice for 64 workers in January 2011.

FoodShare: Enrollments in FoodShare are at an all-time high in Milwaukee County, with 216,801 residents receiving benefits in January. One in 5 Milwaukee County residents is using the FoodShare program to help meet their food costs, with the number of residents using the program increasing every month in the last 2 years. (Ozaukee and Waukesha counties have also seen monthly FS increases for the past 2 years.)

BadgerCare Plus: Enrollments totaled 202,285 Milwaukee County residents (including 126,060 children) in January. One in 2 Milwaukee County children (under age 19) meets the qualifications (i.e., without private family health insurance and income eligible) and is enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus program.

Families receiving W-2: The W-2 program reported 10,141 Milwaukee County families receiving cash assistance in January 2011.

Wisconsin Shares: A total of 13,498 Milwaukee County families were receiving child care subsidies through the Shares program in January 2011.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (2/21/2011)