The Year in Review

The number of laid-off workers in Milwaukee County receiving unemployment insurance payments started out 2010 at a record high of 57,000 and then declined as some workers returned to work while others exhausted their benefits. In August the rolls jumped with the federal approval of longer benefit periods for those not finding work. The week of December 25, 2010 saw 40,660 laid-off workers receiving UI instead of paychecks.

Laid-Off Milwaukee County Workers Receiving UI

After beginning 2010 with estimated unemployment at 10.3%, for the last 3 months unemployment finally stayed below 9%.

202,554 county residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus at the year’s end. The program showed only a 1,200 increase in enrollments during 2010, compared to a 28,600 increase in 2009.

There were 1,446 new plant closing and mass lay-off notices reported by Milwaukee County companies in 2010, less than half the number reported in 2009 (N=3,521).

Housing foreclosures filed in circuit court, while down from the record levels reported in 2009, are still continuing at very high levels. There were 7,177 foreclosure filings in 2009; 6,410 filings in 2010.

The dramatic increase in FoodShare enrollments in Milwaukee County (30% in the past 2 years) was outstripped by 63% increases in the rest of the state. One in 5 Milwaukee County residents has sought out and qualified for FoodShare support.

10,029 families received W-2 income support, up by 3,500 over last December. Employed parents are ineligible for W-2 cash payments.

12,893 Milwaukee County families received Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies in December, down by 1,100 over last December.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development; Wisconsin Consolidated Court Automation Program (CCAP). (1/21/2011).