

Structural Welding Certification Training Program Narrative

The Structural Welding Certification Training Program is critical in educating and training WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers for Monroe County. This program will serve Monroe County. With the region experiencing dire unemployment numbers, a solution on cross-training and educating a more diversified and multi-skilled worker is becoming crucial to the success and economic stability of the region. The unemployment rate for Monroe County for August 2009 was 18.4%. The Structural Welding Certification Training Program allows WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers, identified by the Alabama Career Center System, the ability to pass a welding pre-employment qualification test provided by industries seeking qualified welders for employment. By introducing the participants to the ten week course, these individuals have the opportunity to acquire the technical skills necessary to meet the employment demands of regional businesses and industries.

The Structural Welding Certification Training Program is intended to demonstrate a participant's degree of mastery over technical skills based on regional business and industry needs. This program is designed to teach the technical knowledge to the participant, track the technical instruction, and require the participant to perform a technical skills demonstration to be authenticated by a qualified instructor. The Structural Welding Certification Training Program is targeting a success rate of seventy-five percent (75%) of the eighty (80) WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers who participate in this program to complete the certification process. Through the regional partnerships with business and industry, educational institutions, and governmental agencies, the Structural Welding Certification Training Program will produce an authentic industry-approved credential, which the governmental agencies can support, and the educational entities will endorse.

The current relationship with the Alabama Career Center System bodes extremely well in getting the project started and greatly improves the adherence to the strict WIA requirements and guidelines. The Structural Welding Certification Training Program creates a pool of certified technical workers for the business and industry sectors specializing in paper and pulp, chemical, manufacturing, fabrication, and construction.

The Structural Welding Certification Training Program is tailored to teach and train welding skills for WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers to the standards set forth by regional businesses and industries. This program will focus on safety practices and terminology in the structural welding process. Emphasis will be placed on safety, welding technology, equipment identification, and set-up and operation. The bulk of the training program will deal with the actual welding procedures used to perform flux-core wire and stick welds (flat horizontal or vertical overhead welds) that conform to the industry guidelines that are used to pass an actual welding test in a controlled industry pre-employment welding assessment lab. This involves visual inspection of the completed weld, followed by a weld break test.

The welding procedures incorporated into the welding test are an important part of the overall welding quality system, as it provides documented evidence that inspection and testing has been performed to ensure that welding can be conducted to meet a recognized standard.

The Structural Welding Certification Training Program presents a strong and viable solution to this dilemma, while increasing business and industry "buy-in" from regional employers like Alabama River Pulp, Boise Paper, Temple-Inland, and other entities within the region. Also, the Structural Welding Certification Training Program resonates the vital role in

which community colleges play in workforce development as well as economic development and community development.

The Structural Welding Certification Training Program will be deemed successful when sixty (60) of the projected eighty (80) WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers complete a ten week technical training course and are able to pass an actual welding test in a controlled industry pre-employment welding assessment lab. The success of the Structural Welding Certification Training Program hinges on the benchmarks and goals that drive the proposal, and it is extremely important to be able to quantify these goals and benchmarks through measurable outcomes. To reiterate, the quantifiable goals of the program are as follows:

1. **Goal 1** – Alabama Career Center System identifies eighty (80) dislocated workers to participate in the program, which will consist of four classes of twenty (20) participants per class for ten (10) weeks over the course of a year.
2. **Goal 2** – Seventy-five percent (75%) of the WIA eligible adults and dislocated workers entering the Structural Welding Certification Training Program Training Program will complete the class.
3. **Goal 3** – Sixty (60) participants from the overall eighty (80) participants who participated in the Structural Welding Certification Training Program will be able to pass an actual welding test in a controlled industry pre-employment welding assessment lab.

The success indicators will be the goal benchmarks that are reached from the Structural Welding Certification Training Program. The employment rate will be ultimate indicator as well as other tracking mechanisms used by the Alabama Career Center System. Specifically the following goals are submitted:

	Adult	Dislocated Workers
Entered Employment Rate:	70%	70%
Employment Retention Rate:	70%	70%
Average Monthly earnings:	\$2,800	\$2,800
Employment Rate:	70%	70%
Credential Rate:	75%	75%

Also, pre-training surveys and post-training surveys from regional businesses and industries will provide other benchmarks in determining the success of the Structural Welding Certification Training Program.