

Platform to Employment®

Program Fact Sheet

The WorkPlace is pleased to announce that the Platform to Employment (P2E) program is beginning in Tampa/Hillsborough County on **April 14, 2014**. P2E is an innovative, privately funded response to the crisis of long-term unemployment. Eligibility for the program is for individuals 50 years of age or older and for persons who have exhausted unemployment benefits.

The goals for each P2E participant are:

- Develop networking contacts
- Learn new job search skills
- Enter into unsubsidized employment

P2E begins with mandatory workshops conducted four days per week for five weeks. The workshops, along with personal counseling, provide training and important wraparound services. People out of work for long periods often require assistance beyond job-specific training. They need to regain self-confidence, organize for a job search, and learn to market themselves. Personal and financial issues may need solutions to prepare for regular employment. Participants and their families meet with a behavioral counselor at least once, with additional, optional counseling sessions available.

Once participants complete the five-week training, they are eligible to take advantage of a wage subsidy incentive in a work experience. P2E and its partners will work with participants to match them with employers that have open positions. The employer, by selecting a P2E participant, fills an open position with a supported candidate at no cost for the first four weeks and at partial cost for the next two weeks. P2E eliminates the risk in this hiring, as they are on the payroll of the WorkPlace during the trial period. The expectation is that a participant, if successful, will be hired by the employer at the end of the work experience. Because of the project's private funding, the absence of government bureaucracy is a significant additional benefit for employers.

Based on the pilot program in Connecticut, P2E has already demonstrated substantial success for its participants. Nationally, the long-term unemployed have a 1-in-10 chance of securing a job each month. Of the participants who completed the training during the pilot in Connecticut and nationally, over 80% have entered into work experience. Of those who completed their work experience, over 95% were hired by the employers.

In November 2012, the WorkPlace received funding from the Citi Community Development and the AARP Foundation to expand the initiative to ten major cities in the US including Tampa/Hillsborough County.

Deadline to apply is March 28, 2014. Interested candidates should complete an application on-line at www.platformtoemployment.com.

Platform to Employment is an equal opportunity program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Any questions, please contact Mike McCarthy (203)610-8554 mmccarthy@workplace.org