

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FACT SHEET

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To assist all unemployed and under-employed Pima County residents by:

- Providing counseling, case management and support services that assist individuals with obtaining employment that has a career ladder and benefits so self-sufficiency can be obtained;
- Strengthening families and increasing self-sufficiency through job training and job skill development to reduce dependency;
- Providing the basic tools required to compete in the current job market, including access to GED and job skills training;
- Connecting job seekers to educational opportunities for new careers or improving job skills to increase employment options;
- Assistance in basic services to reduce barriers to employment including transportation and day care.

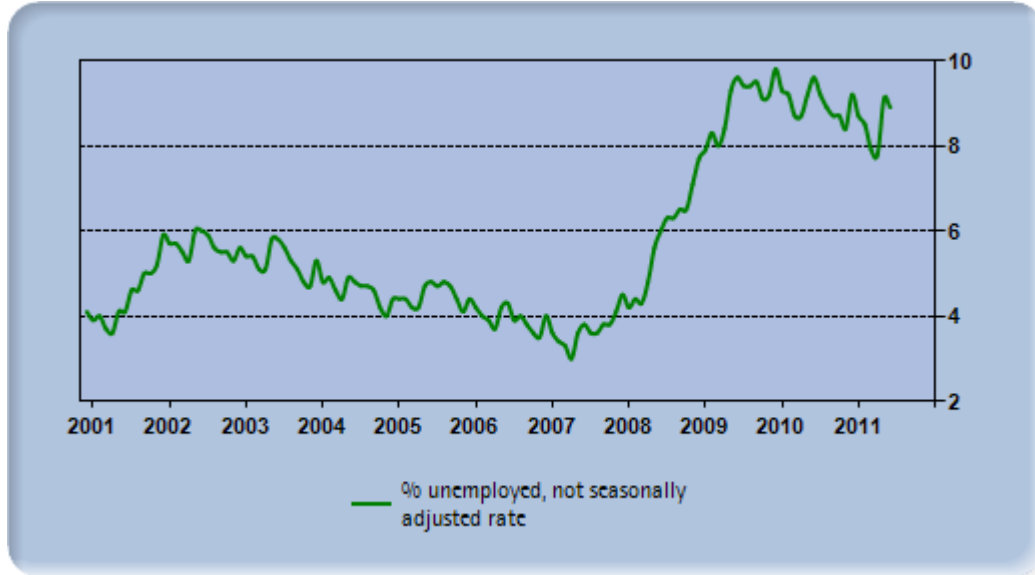
SERVICE PRIORITIES

- **Case Management Services:** Case management includes activities for the arrangement, coordination, and monitoring of services to meet the needs of individuals and families which may include: individual service plan development; counseling; monitoring, developing, securing, and coordinating services; monitoring and evaluating client progress; and assuring that client rights are protected.
- **Education and Training Services** Education and training services improve knowledge or daily living skills and to enhance cultural opportunities. Services may include instruction or training in, but are not limited to, such issues as consumer education, health education, community protection and safety education, literacy education, English as a second language, and General Educational Development (G.E.D.). Component services or activities may include screening, assessment and testing; individual or group instruction; tutoring; provision of books, supplies and instructional material; counseling; transportation; and referral to community resources.
- **Employment Services** Employment services assist individuals in securing employment or acquiring or learning skills that promote opportunities for employment. Component services or activities may include employment screening, assessment, or testing; structured job skills and job seeking skills; specialized therapy (occupational, speech, physical); special training and tutoring, including literacy training and pre-vocational training; provision of books, supplies and instructional material; counseling, transportation; and referral to community resources.
- **Day Care Services** Day care services for children (including infants, preschoolers, and school age children) are provided in a setting that meets applicable standards of state and local law, in a center or in a home, for a portion of a 24-hour day. Component services or activities may include a comprehensive and coordinated set of appropriate developmental activities for children, recreation, meals and snacks, transportation, health support services, social service counseling for parents, plan development, and licensing and monitoring of child care homes and facilities.
- **Transportation Services** Transportation services provide or arrange for the travel, including travel costs, of individuals in order to access services, or obtain medical care or employment. Component services or activities may include special travel arrangements such as special modes of transportation and personnel to accompany or assist individuals or families to utilize transportation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

As of July 2011, Pima County has an unemployment rate of 8.9%; As of August 2011, Arizona’s unemployment rate is 9.3%

Unemployment Rate - Tucson MSA



Unemployment Rate – Tucson MSA	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Jul 11
Unemployment Rate	8.7	8.5	7.9	7.8	9.1	8.9
Total Unemployment (000s)	42.7	41.8	39.0	38.5	44.4	42.6
% chg vs. year ago	-7.4	-7.1	-9.6	-10.1	-1.8	-9.1

- 20% of the residents in the planning area are at or below the federal poverty level.
- 107,450 adults in Pima County are without a high school credential, which makes it impossible to get a job or go on to further training.) 60% of workers over the age of 18 are without a 4-year college degree or professional certification
- 44,500 claims for unemployment were filed for August 2010 in the Tucson metro area
- The Arizona state legislature did not extend unemployment benefits to families, affecting 45,000 Arizonans.
- An estimated 1,250 Pima County military veterans are chronically unemployed and homeless
- GED instruction and testing costs on average \$186 per student. Pima Community College Adult Education (PCCAE) served 7,846 students in 2008-09, at a cost of only \$183 per student.

UNMET NEED

- US Census estimates that by 2030 Arizona's older adult population will increase 255.1%. By that year, the traditional care-giving workforce (women age 25-44) will increase by 59.2%. There is a need to train more workers for this career.
- There are at least 25 different agencies in Pima County that assist with achieving economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency. Most have had their funds cut over the last three years.
- Some agencies, because of funding cuts, have eliminated programs that assist with job placement (PCOA has ended their Mature Worker Connection Program).
- Traditional jobs will no longer be available. Most industries are requiring a higher skilled workforce. It is going to be difficult to just do job placement without investing in retraining for the unemployed. Doing so requires a larger investment from agencies to clients while funds are being cut.
- Pima Community College recently changed its admissions criteria requiring a GED or HS diploma and a proficiency of at least 7th grade level to enroll in classes. This affects at least 2,300 current students, not including future students.
- The Arizona state legislature cut all funding for adult education in the state. This year, 1,180 students will receive their GED diploma through Pima Community College Adult Education Program. Without state funding, it is unknown what will happen next year.
- In 2012, military men and women will be returning from their tour of duty and will be looking for employment or job training. The unemployment rate for 18-24 year old enlisted troops is 19%.

IMPACT OF SERVICES PROVIDED

- Community colleges play a key role in educating nurses: 60 percent of all U.S.-educated RNs who entered the field in 2000 received their education at the associate degree in nursing (ADN) level, and 79 percent of ADN recipients graduated from community colleges.
- Case Managers and Workforce Development Specialists provide job leads for clients who are dislocated workers.
- The economic impact of NOT educating the 800,000 Arizonans who do not have a high school diploma is enormous! 80% of adult education students are under 45 –
- GED graduates earn \$9,000 more per year on average resulting in approximately \$70 million additional tax dollars on the national level

FUNDING

- The Arizona state legislature cut all funding for adult education in the state. This year, 1,180 students will receive their GED diploma through Pima Community College Adult Education Program. Without state funding, it is unknown what will happen next year.
- Workforce Investment Act funds have been cut over the years. Stimulus funds have not been sufficient to get people into the long-term training required to keep people in good paying jobs for the long-term.
- Recent budget cuts at the local, state and federal levels, resulted in a decrease of services available to people in need. The City of Tucson had two cuts to agencies in 2008-2009 – the first was a 10% cut, the second a 15.5% cut across the board. Pima County, in 2008-2009, cut funding by 10% to agencies, and some were eliminated. The City of Tucson budget has been reduced by 25% compared to 4 years ago.

GAPS IN SERVICE AND EMERGING ISSUES

- Since the economic recession began in December 2007, the unemployment rate in Pima County has gone from 4.4% to 8.4% in August 2011, with an increase of almost 25,000 unemployed individuals and more losses expected before the economy rebounds (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; data seasonally adjusted).

- People without a HS diploma or GED have a higher unemployment rate than those with an education (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; data seasonally adjusted).
- The unemployment rate in Pima county is lower than last year (9.2 in August 2010)
- Projections from the Eller College show that Arizona unemployment will reach 11% by the end of the year; and the Arizona Department of Economic Security forecasts that employment will continue to shrink in 2010 (1.1%) and 2011 (0.6%) (www.workforce.az.gov).
- Arizona is struggling to address skill gaps that make employment placement difficult for public and private businesses when they seek qualified workers. The skill gaps are a basic lack of literacy and computer literacy necessary for low-wage workers to move up the career ladder. Another gap is the K-12 misalignment with industry demands, especially in industries that require contextual math and science skills.
- From December 2007 – August 2010, Arizona lost 267,000 jobs.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Pima County One Stop, Pima Council on Aging, Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System, Gospel Rescue Services, Emerge, Linkages, JobPath, Inc., Our Family Services, Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, SER – Jobs for Progress of Southern Arizona, Tucson Urban League, Tucson Youth Development, Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, Portable, Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP), Primavera Foundation, Vocational Rehab, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), COPE Community Services, CODAC, Old Pueblo Community Services, Inc., DKA Advocates, Inc. , Salvation Army, La Frontera, Café 54

EXPLANATION SECTION

Five of the 29 SSBG service categories apply directly to employment: Employment Services, Education and Training Services and Case Management Services. These services were selected because of the unmet needs of the local community, the gaps in service and the funding cuts or elimination of programs.