

November 12, 2004

To: ALL Interested Parties

**From: Eric Barbe, Chairman
Lake County Workforce Investment Board**

Subject: Five Year Business Plan

Lake County has applied to the State of Ohio to be designated a Local Workforce Area for the two year period beginning July 1, 2005. In order to receive the designation and to receive funds under the Workforce Investment Act, we must complete a new Five Year Business Plan following the guidelines and time line outlined by the Governor's Workforce Policy Board.

The time line that has been presented to us to complete the new Plan is very aggressive. The final proposed Plan must be submitted to the Governor's Workforce Policy Board by March 1, 2005. The Plan, in its final proposed form, is subject to a thirty day public comment period which means that the Plan itself will need to be completed by the middle of January, 2005.

Work has already begun on the Plan. Staff representatives from Lake County Employment & Training have received technical training on the planning process by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the staff has prepared a *Lake County Labor Market and Workforce Analysis* utilizing up-to-date labor market data and data from the 2000 Census.

The Workforce Investment Board's Planning Committee is taking the lead role in the planning process. The Committee recently met after reviewing the labor market, workforce and Census data and utilized a *Business Plan Guidance* document provided by the State to identify past, current and future "market trends" in the area's labor and workforce. The WIB's Planning Committee is made up of representatives of private business, mature workers and One-Stop Partners. For the purpose of the Business Plan, the Committee has been expanded to include representatives of economic development, chambers of commerce, the WIB Vice Chair Jeff Malish and myself.

You have been identified as an *Interested Party* to this process and the Plan. We wish to include the thoughts and input of *ALL Interested Parties* into the planning process. You are welcome and encouraged to review the data and strategy for the Business Plan via the internet at www.lake1stop.org/busplan.

At this site, you can view: I. *Summary of the Business Plan Components*; II. *Planning Timeline*; III. *Business Plan Guidance document*; IV. *Executive Summary of the Labor Market and Workforce Analysis*; V. *The Lake County Labor Market and Workforce Analysis*; VI. *2000 Lake County Census Data*; VII. *Private Business Expansions for the Cleveland Metropolitan Area (2001-2003)*; VIII. *Planning Committee Minutes from the October 26, 2004 meeting*; and *Lake County's Planning Progress Report* for the first progress reporting date of November 5, 2004.

The fast track nature of the planing process coupled with everyone's busy schedule makes it very difficult to schedule meetings that everyone can attend. Therefore, we hope you will review the Business Planning Website at www.lake1stop.org/busplan and use the response page to give us your thoughts on and into the planning process.