

A strong economy begins with a strong, well-educated workforce.

-Bill Owens

Virginia Career Works Warsaw Center: January Review

With the opening of the Virginia Career Works Warsaw Center in October 2021, those living in the surrounding areas have welcomed the local access to the resources provided. Each month has seen an uptick in visitors as word of the new location spreads.

However, January was an incredibly outstanding month. Even with holidays and weather closings, the Virginia Career Works Warsaw Center managed to see an impressive 114 clients from January 1, 2022 to January 30, 2022.

Here is a breakdown of the statistics of the visitors at the Virginia Career Works Warsaw Center during the month of January:

- 114 clients
 - 102 Male
 - 12 Female
- January 19th was the busiest day of the month, with 21 visitors coming in. Wednesdays on average were the day of the week with the most clients.
- Job Search, Resume Assistance, and the Resource Room were among the most popular reasons for visiting.



Success Story

Brian* was let go from his job as an electrician helper during the pandemic. He did not want to re-enter this field because his pay and work hours were not stable during the pandemic. Brian had family members working in the trucking industry, and he wanted to pursue working in this field due to industry demands and financial opportunities.

Brian met with WIOA staff to discuss his service options. He was found eligible for services as a Dislocated Worker as well as for funding through the COVID-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant. Throughout the eligibility process, Brian was openly concerned about his past felony record and how this barrier made it difficult for him to gain employment.

WIOA staff supported Brian in obtaining a Federal Bonding letter and registering for CDL training to pursue his goal of working in the trucking industry. Brian began his training, and despite the delays and smaller class sizes the training provider had in place due to the pandemic, he finished his training and obtained his CDL in just over the usual six weeks. Afterwards, WIOA staff supported Brian to revise his resume and provided him with job listings.

During the job search, an industry hiring event took place at the Virginia Career Works – Fredericksburg Center. A trucking company was in attendance and the WIOA staff spoke with them about their hiring practices around hiring re-entry citizens. Initially, the employer was hesitant, and staff spoke with them at length about the benefits of hiring re-entry citizens. Staff encouraged Brian to come to the hiring event and speak with the employer. He did so, and the company hired him on spot. Brian stated he had been open about his past with them and they were willing to give him the opportunity despite his background.

WIOA staff spoke with the employer at a later hiring event and they stated they were happy to have given Brian the opportunity, because of his work ethic, personality, and his overall drive to learn every task he could. Because of Brian's hard work and WIOA staff advocacy, not only was this a success for this client, but potentially for others in the future with similar barriers.

**Names have been changed to protect identity.*

Resource Room Availability

Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Call 540-513-9182

Virginia Career Works Warsaw Center
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Call 804-333-4048 ext. 5

Virginia Career Works Eastern Shore Center
By Appointment Only
Call 757-302-2029

[Click Here to See a List of Available Services & Contact Information](#)



To register for the free COVID-19 vaccine, and check your registration status, please check Vaccinate Virginia at:

<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>
or call 877-829-4682

Do you have anxiety or stress related to COVID-19?

**Call or text VA COPES, a free and confidential COVID-19 support line:
877-349-6428**

**Monday - Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm
Saturday - Sunday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Spanish speakers are available.**

VaccineFinder

VaccineFinder helps you find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

<https://vaccinefinder.org/>

Information Related to COVID-19

If you have lost employment and seek to apply for Unemployment Compensation, please click on this link to apply online at the [Virginia Employment Commission website](#) or call the VEC Customer Contact Center by calling 1-866-832-2363, Monday through Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm.

[Tutorial Video - "How to File an Unemployment Claim on the Virginia Workforce Connection website"](#)

The Workforce Board staff continues to monitor the situation; any updates will be posted to the [BCWDB website](#) and the [Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board Facebook page](#). At this time, prevention, social separation and preparation are the best courses of action, and the BCWDB encourages all customers, staff, and community members to follow the CDC recommended hygiene and social distancing practices.

[Virginia Department of Social Services COVID-19 Resources](#)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at:

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