



Southern Nevada Needs FIT

- *People need to, and want to, support themselves and their dependents without having to rely on welfare, food stamps, public housing or other public assistance.*
- *The workforce needs skilled workers able to fill jobs in a diversity of areas.*
- *The economy needs the strength of well-paid employees.*

FIT answers each of these needs.

FIT's mission is to propel clients into jobs that pay enough to support their families without assistance. FIT propels its clients and their families into financial stability and self-sufficiency.

The national recessionary trends are having a particularly severe impact on Southern Nevada.

- ◆ **Unemployment is at an all-time high.** In October 2009, unemployment rates in Southern Nevada were reported at 13.9%. In the first quarter of 2008 76.6% of entering FIT clients were unemployed. By the end of 2008, an average of 87.8% of entering clients were unemployed. In the first two quarters of 2009, 89.64% of entering clients were unemployed.
- ◆ **Southern Nevada consumers are spending less.** In southern Nevada taxable retail spending is off \$2.3 billion in the last twelve months, or 9% - this is the largest decline in taxable spending on record.
- ◆ **Home equity losses are affecting consumer attitudes toward spending.** Nevada ranks 50th nationally in terms of subprime loans outstanding at the end of the first quarter of 2009. The average housing unit has lost \$63,000 in equity.
- ◆ **Housing prices have declined.** Nevada ranks first nationally in housing price declines.
- ◆ **Tourist spending is declining.** June was the seventeenth consecutive month in which Nevada gaming had declined.
- ◆ **Demands on public assistance are growing.** Persons participating in the Food Stamps program in Nevada increased 49% between 2002 and 2008. By comparison, in the one year from May 2008 to May 2009 alone we experienced a 30% increase in the program.

The most current southern Nevada community assessment was performed by the United Way in 2007, well before the southern Nevada economy hit the recessionary decline. Still, in "community impact" the report concludes that, "what the community needs... means more than just delivering a hot meal. It means equipping people with the skills necessary to become self-sufficient. It means helping others help themselves." (Nevada Community Assessment, Introduction.) That's exactly what FIT does. In fact, FIT equips people with the vocational education and the workplace competency skills that are required to be competitive in today's job market and to get a job that pays enough to support a family.

Through our holistic approach, FIT once and for all changes clients' lives. We move people into:

Better Jobs. Brighter Futures.[®]