

After seeing an ad on Craigslist, Jesse attended one of the the Next Generation Zone orientations. Out of work, homeless, and frustrated, Jesse was ready to try anything. He particularly was looking for a job in office administration or office management. Jesse went to three interviews, but things just weren't quite coming together as planned.

Jesse mentioned that if a position opened up in WorkFirst that he would like to work there. WorkFirst is a state program that serves low income families. It is operated by a variety of different state agencies, including employment security at WorkSource.

Jesse started with WorkFirst in December. It didn't take long before he was teaching other volunteers and work experience (WEX) participants what to do. He also increased the efficiency and organization within the administration area. Specifically, his improvement processes have helped streamline the WorkFirst intake/counselor notification process; organize the reception office paperwork filing system; help reduce the file storage foot print; and greatly organize and clean up the copier room. Jesse's positive attitude and great work ethic made him a great fit for the WorkFirst program.

Jesse finished up his WEX in WorkFirst and was awarded an extension. Next, he asked if he could work with the LEAN consultant, John Dickson, at WorkSource. John operates Dickson Consulting and specializes in helping businesses streamline their processes. Jesse assisted John by collecting a tremendous amount of data from his colleagues at WorkFirst. He then made an incredible matrix that has helped streamline the customer intake process.

WorkFirst counselor Len Branford wrote a letter of recommendation for Jesse stating that, "He is a motivated, resourceful, hardworking young man that has a bright future and will benefit any company that is fortunate enough to have him as an applicant."

Jesse completed his work experiences and is now working nearly full time for the US Census Bureau. He is making a respectable \$11.75/hr. Jesse is also going to school this quarter at the Community College. He hopes to finish his AA in the next 6 months and then go on to a major university.

Without the Next Generation Zone, Jesse would not have had the opportunity to build so many connections and wonderful contacts. He is hopeful of working again with his former colleagues at WorkFirst in some capacity in the future.

Jesse &

WorkFirst

