



State Funding for Employment and Training Programs

1. Sustain Jobs First Employment Services at \$18.5 million, \$5.1 million for North Central Region

- **RATIONALE:** Sustain the State's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) statewide to maximize JFES job placement, ensuring required federal participation rate that enhances job placement. Also, increase emphasis on subsidized employment to optimize success. **Sustain \$18.5 million.**
- **IMPACT:** About 6,000 TFA individuals in the Capitol Region and 15,000 statewide receive job search services, moving into employment and career pathways. JFES provides substantive supports to CT's American Jobs Centers.
- **SUGGESTED ACTION:** The JFES appropriation is made through the Governor's budget proposal, through the Department of Labor, and contracted to CWP and CT's four other Workforce Development Boards. The Legislative Committees of cognizance are Appropriations and Finance, Revenue & Bonding. The Higher Education and Employment Committee and Human Services are involved in reform and updates to JFES.

2. Sustain Ex-Offender Reentry through BEST CHANCE the I-BEST, Second Chance Initiative at \$1.3-million

- **RATIONALE:** The IBEST Second Chance Program has supported hundreds of Returning Citizens to gain training credentials and many placed in employment in the Capitol area. Our goal is to continue to build this program to assist more former inmates with successful reentry into society, work and sustainable careers.
- **IMPACT:** About 200 ex-offenders served a year, with many achieving employment, reduced recidivism. Consideration to sustain the program in the Capitol region and expand this to the rest of the state.
- **SUGGESTED ACTION:** The IBEST appropriation is made through the Governor's budget proposal, through the Department of Labor, and contracted to CWP. Legislative support originated from the Criminal Justice Policy Advocacy Committee and OPM. Other importance committees will include Appropriations and Finance, Revenue & Bonding. The Higher Education and Employment Committee might also have some involvement.

3. Sustain Youth Employment Programs at \$5.5-million

- **RATIONALE:** Sustain the State's \$5.5 million investment in its 14-19 year old, in-school youth participating in an employment / internship experiences. Consider set aside for startup costs. Consider a portion of this funding for opportunity youth strategies to reconnect more 18-24 year old, out-of-school, disconnected youth to jobs".
- **IMPACT:** In the Capitol Region, this program contributes to over 1500 summer employment and learning jobs, and several thousand statewide, leveraging additional youth employment funding. With high youth

unemployment, particularly in the distressed communities, these work experiences contributes to future success for youth, and a talent pipeline needed by state businesses.

- **SUGGESTED ACTION:** The youth employment appropriation is made through the Governor's budget proposal, through the Department of Labor, and contracted to CWP and CT's four other Workforce Development Boards. The Legislative Committees of cognizance are Appropriations and Finance, Revenue & Bonding. The Higher Education and Employment Committee and Human Services occasionally are involved in updates to youth employment.

4. Sustain Jobs Funnel Program funding at \$700,000 statewide, \$150,000 for North Central Region

- **RATIONALE:** Support Jobs Funnel Statewide (presently three programs) to connect more unemployed (many ex-offenders) to the trades related to construction occupations.
- **IMPACT:** Over one hundred unemployed individuals are served a year, with many achieving employment, reduced recidivism; with other programming also supported throughout the state.
- **SUGGESTED ACTION:** The Jobs Funnel appropriation is made through the Governor's budget proposal, through the Department of Labor, and contracted to CWP. Other importance committees will include Appropriations and Finance, Revenue & Bonding. The Higher Education and Employment Committee might also have some involvement.

5. Support the Senate FY17 Workforce Priorities for Vocational Adult Training Funding

- **RATIONALE:** Support State vocational adult training funding through Workforce Development Boards, to train in manufacturing, construction and other vocational trades and placed in employment.
- **IMPACT:** In the Capital Region. over one hundred unemployed individuals have been served a year and placed in vocational jobs, where many job openings are otherwise difficult to fill.
- **SUGGESTED ACTION:** The vocational adult education appropriation is made through the State Bond Commission, with a need to fully authorize the \$1.5 million for bonding, previously legislated. This would be in coordination with the State Department of Education, and with specific funds supporting job training and placement through CWP. Other importance committees will include Finance, Revenue & Bonding.

See Attachment for Legislative Leadership List

ATTACHMENT
Connecticut Executive & Legislative Leadership
Emphasis on Workforce Development Policy & Issues

Leadership

Governor Dannel Malloy	
*Rep. Joe Aresimowicz	Speaker of the House
*Rep. Matt Ritter	Majority Leader of the House
Rep. Bob Godfrey	Deputy Speaker Pro-Tempore
Rep. Themis Klarides	Minority Leader of the House
Sen. Martin M. Looney	Senate Democrat President Pro Tempore
Sen. Bob Duff	Senate Majority Leader
Sen. Len Fasano	Senate Republican Pro Tempore
*Sen. Kevin Witkos	Senate Deputy Leader

Appropriations Committee

Sen. Paul Formica	Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee,
Sen. Catherine Oston	Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee
Rep. Toni Walker	Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Henry Genga	Vice Chair, Appropriation Committee
*Rep. Jeff Currey,	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Andrew Fleischmann	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Terry Gerratana	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Minnie Gonzalez	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Douglas McCrory	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. William Petit	Member, Appropriations Committee
*Rep. Peter Tercyak	Member, Appropriations Committee

Finance, Revenue & Bonding

*Sen. John Fonfara	Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue & Bonding
*Rep. Jason Rojas	Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue & Bonding
Sen. L. Scott Frantz	Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue & Bonding
*Rep. Brandon L. McGee	Member, Finance, Revenue & Bonding
*Rep. Angel Arce	Member, Finance, Revenue & Bonding
*Sen Steve Cassano	Member, Finance, Revenue & Bonding

Higher Education & Employment Committee

Gregory Haddad	Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Committee
*Beth Bye	Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Committee
Art Linares	Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Committee

Human Services Committee

*Rep. Catherine Abercrombie	Chair, Human Services Committee
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**From a District represented in the North Central Region*