

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS \$10 MILLION
TO BOOST WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STATEWIDE**
Apprenticeship CT Initiative Targeted to Regions, Industry Sectors

March XX, 2020

WETHERSFIELD, CT- The Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) has awarded \$10 million to the state’s five regional Workforce Investment Boards for apprenticeship programs that address Connecticut’s sustained manufacturing worker shortage.

The Apprenticeship CT Initiative funding will train entry-level workers for job placement in manufacturing and other industry sectors, such as healthcare and construction, that are experiencing long-term worker shortages.

The apprentice “pipeline” programs employ curriculum designed by specific employers to ensure job placement, and target areas of the state with the most concentrated employment needs.

The funding was unanimously approved with bipartisan support by the State Bond Commission in September and has been awarded to:

- Eastern Workforce Investment Board/Franklin: \$3 million
- Capital Workforce Partners/Hartford: \$2.2 million
- The Workplace/Bridgeport: \$2.2 million
- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board/Waterbury: \$1.5 million
- Workforce Alliance/New Haven: \$500,000

(POSSIBLE GOVERNOR QUOTE)

“Apprenticeship and pipeline programs are putting people to work not just in good jobs, but in long-lasting careers that create economic stability for themselves and for the state as a whole,” **Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby said.** “This funding represents a major step forward in making these highly-effective pipeline initiatives realize their full potential across the state.”

Connecticut currently has 6,000 registered apprentices – the highest per-capita number of registered apprentices in New England - and more than 1,700 active registered apprenticeship employer sponsors. CTDOL’s pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs have grown 40% in the last 5 years.

The ACI funds will create or sustain the following programs:

Eastern Workforce Investment Board:

To continue the nationally-recognized, demand-driven workforce program called the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI), which since 2016 has placed over 1,500 people in training.

To support expansion of the Eastern CT Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) into 15 regional high schools as a programming option for seniors that are opting to enter the workforce upon graduation.

To support the launch of a new pipeline initiative focused on healthcare, one of the fastest-growing industry sectors in Connecticut.

“The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board thanks Governor Lamont and Commissioner Westby for investing with EWIB as we advance our innovative program design that not only launches careers but helps our employers stay here and continue to grow” said Chris Jewell, EWIB Board Chairman.

Capital Workforce Partners:

To provide several hundred youth and adult industry-based apprenticeship-credentialing programs in key regional industry sectors in North Central Connecticut through the Capital Area Pipeline Partnership.

Programs will connect un-and-underemployed individuals with robust career pathways toward jobs paying living wages in the growth sectors of manufacturing, healthcare, and construction/transportation, which are currently experiencing several thousand job vacancies.

The WorkPlace:

To develop an apprenticeship program with Sikorsky and Microboard (??) that will incorporate Housatonic Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Program, a successful pre-apprenticeship program, and Manufacturing Technician Level 1 (MT1) Certification.

To facilitate careers in health care by incorporating pre-apprenticeship training and education that target the unique skill requirements of health careers.

Additionally, the State of Connecticut's new "Peer Recovery Navigator" apprenticeship program that was created under a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will be used to serve adults in the region.

"These training programs will address the needs of the whole person while leveraging existing resources found in the community," said **WorkPlace president and CEO Joseph Carbone**. "I would like to thank the Governor and the Connecticut Department of Labor for their support of this opportunity."

Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB):

To fund an "ACI 2.0- Plastics Plus" training program focusing on the manufacturing sector, using a curriculum designed with the input of several Waterbury-area plastics manufacturers who are partners in the effort.

The program will include training in plastics-molding manufacturing and Davenport Machine operation.

"This region has seen substantial growth in its plastics molding manufacturing cluster, and there is a very strong demand for skilled workers," said **Catherine Awwad, Executive Director of the NRWIB**. "We are thrilled that this funding will allow us to deliver customized training that will address the significant workforce needs of area employers."

Each Apprenticeship CT Initiative partnership proposal must be for a four-year workforce pipeline program, and include at least one program for participants in

the 11th or 12th grade, and one program for adults. It also must identify the number of workers each company is expected to hire.

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

To expand its Hospitality Sector Pipeline, which is supported by the CT Restaurant Association and the CT Lodging Association.

Up to 3,500 hospitality job openings will need to be filled in the New Haven region in the next four years, including the 21 planned and new hotel properties that will bring another 2,000 rooms.

The program will feature credentialed training at Gateway and Middlesex Community Colleges, as well as pre-apprenticeship training for youth at Hillhouse High School, elevating their ProStart program.

Additionally, several hotels will develop and sponsor nationally-recognized apprenticeships for those on a management career track in the industry.

“Traditionally, workforce development has been reactive to industry expansion,” Workforce Alliance President Bill Villano said. “The ACI funding allows us to implement a demand-driven model that is responsive to employers’ current specific needs.”

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

REP. MILLER P., 145th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.

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(9) to transfer fifty million dollars to the Labor Department which shall be used by said department for the purpose of funding work force pipeline programs selected pursuant to section 31-11rr, provided, notwithstanding the provisions of section 31-11rr, (A) not less than five million dollars shall be provided to the workforce development board in Bridgeport serving the southwest region, for purposes of such program, and the board shall distribute such money in proportion to population and need, and (B) not less than five million dollars shall be provided to the workforce development board in Hartford serving the north central region, for purposes of such program,



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