

Metro Hartford Future

Promoting Inclusive Economic Development

Implementation Committee Meeting 2/3/2022



Talent: Goal

A world-class talent development system that meaningfully engages employers and industry sector partnerships in training workers at a scale sufficient to meet current and future needs of key industries.

Create a world-class talent system, using comprehensive labor-market analysis, a workforce skills training fund and empowered industry-sector partnerships

Progress

- CWP commissioned a supply/demand study of the healthcare sector
 - Demonstrated a significant mismatch between some occupations and training programs
- Next Generation Industry Sector Partnerships
 - Partnership between Governor's Workforce Council and CWP
 - Formed the Next Generation IT/Technology RSP
 - Launched the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics RSP in late 2021

Next Steps

- Continue studying supply and demand
- Continue working to strengthen Industry Sector Partnerships
- Continue advocating for a flexible workforce skills training fund

Significantly increase the supply of talent for high-opportunity industries using a dual-track training model

Progress

- CWP awarded \$2.2 million in funding from Apprenticeship CT Initiative that was leveraged to obtain \$1.6 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds
- Hartford Work Based Learning Network received a \$250k grant to further develop dual track, work-based learning programming

Next Steps

- Continue advocating for additional funding

Retain talent by connecting college graduates (and students) to employers

Progress

- AdvanceCT launched CampusCT in 2021
 - Working with UpperCampus
 - Seven schools are currently participating with additional five schools coming on board in January

Next Steps

- Continue supporting CampusCT



Invest: Goal

Invest in quality of place amenities throughout our region to retain and attract talent.

Create a regional investment fund to drive investment in quality of place assets

Progress

- While this was listed as the main strategy for the “Invest” goal, no significant progress was made during 2021. Due to uncertainties with state funding as well as financial pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuing this strategy was deferred.
- Riverfront Recapture is pursuing an EDA grant to support new regional recreational assets

Next Steps

- Continue exploring options for creating a regional investment fund

Increase connectivity within and outside of the region

Progress

- CRCOG completed and publicized an economic impact study of a Boston rail connection
- CRCOG initiated a Capital Region Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy Study

Next Steps

- Continue advocating for East-West Rail connection to Boston
- Finish Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy
- Explore opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Support investments in the region's downtowns

Progress

- TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis Study launched
 - Will identify sites that may be ready for development and analyze the financial viability of developing the sites
 - Will also analyze existing and potential funding/financing tools

Next Steps

- Complete TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis Study (scheduled for August 2022)

Continue making sites ready for development

Progress

- CRCOG's Metro Hartford Brownfields program received a 2020 Regional Brownfields Assessment Grant
 - Working with towns to identify projects for assessment
- CRCOG has nearly closed on its first loan in the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund
- East Hartford/Goodwin University Drainage Improvements project seeking alternative funding sources

Next Steps

- Continue pursuing funding through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the federal Environmental Protection Agency
- Continue submitting grant applications for improvements to sites and areas



Brand: Goal

A world-class talent development system that meaningfully engages employers and industry sector partnerships in training workers at a scale sufficient to meet current and future needs of key industries.

Create a coordinated regional approach to business retention, expansion, and attraction.

Progress

- MHA launched renewed business attraction/retention program in 2018. Impact in 2020 and 2021:
 - \$290 million in total capital investment
 - 2,179 new jobs in the metropolitan region
 - Twelve recruitment “wins”
 - 400 jobs retained
 - 486 local business assists

Next Steps

- Support their efforts with information
- Help evaluate results

Scale efforts to support high-opportunity sectors through entrepreneurship.

Progress

- CT launched the Innovation Corridors program with \$100 million in competitive grants.
- General Assembly authorized \$64 million in additional funding (over four years) for Innovation Places.
- CRCOG received a grant of \$75,000 to support educational webinars and entrepreneurial meetups for small businesses.

Next Steps

- Work with legislators to continue allocating funds to support accelerators and incubators.
- Hire a consultant for the webinar and entrepreneurial meetup project.

Overall Next Steps

- Update the CEDS to address the COVID-19 pandemic using a \$90,000 grant from the EDA. (scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2022)
- Provide technical support services to small businesses using a \$110,000 grant from the EDA. (scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2023)
- Hire a recovery coordinator to assist with identifying unmet needs in the region related to the COVID-19 pandemic using a \$100,000 grant from the EDA. (scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2023)