

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

January 2020

Platform to Employment Re-Entry Kick Off

Platform to Employment (P2E) Re-Entry is a statewide pilot program designed to combat unemployment and recidivism of formerly incarcerated individuals. The program is based on the nationally recognized program Platform to Employment which has been operating since 2011 and is designed to break the cycle of joblessness. P2E Re-Entry will provide returning citizens with a four-week training program followed by an eight-week work experience. In 2019, The WorkPlace received funding from the Connecticut Department of Labor to support 200 participants statewide over the next two years. The inaugural Bridgeport class began on December 5th and the Hartford class began on January 14th.

Participants from the Bridgeport class attended The WorkPlace December 2019 Board Meeting and spoke to the audience about their experience with the program.

"Coming to the WorkPlace helped me get over the stigma of being a convicted felon"

said participant Willie Jones at the meeting. During the program, participants receive training on life skills and professional development that will enhance confidence and improve employment opportunities. They receive job readiness training, soft skills and resume and cover letter writing techniques. The program has a Resource Concierge to assist with barriers to employment such as transportation and childcare. Classes begin soon in New Haven, Waterbury and New London. Individuals interested in applying should visit www.workplace.org/p2e-re-entry/



DMV Express Hits Milestone



The DMV Express in Stamford hit a major milestone since The WorkPlace took over operation in November 2018. As of January 2020 over 20,000 people have been served.

The DMV Express in Stamford provides services such as license and identification card renewal and replacement, saving you the time of having to go to a traditional DMV office. There is no better time than now to visit the DMV Express in Stamford because starting in October 2020 all US citizens will be required to have a "verified" (also known as Real ID) driver's license or identification card in order to travel domestically by airplane. People traveling without a "verified" license will be required to show additional identification such as a passport in order to board a plane. In Connecticut, verified ID's have a gold star on the top corner of the license.

Visiting DMV Express in Stamford is by appointment only. To schedule an appointment visit www.workplace.org/dmv-express-stamford.



American Job Center Employer Video Series Goes Live



The WorkPlace has created nine videos that showcase services provided by the American Job Centers (AJC) to employers throughout Connecticut.

These short, targeted videos provide necessary information about the centers to employers who may not realize how the AJCs can save them time and money.

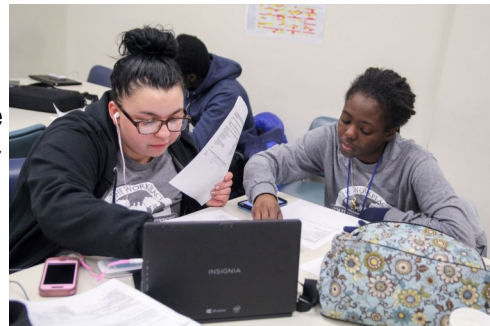
Topics covered in the video series include: how to recruit from the AJC, skill upgrades for your staff, wage and workplace standards and diversifying your workforce. The American Job Center provides workforce assistance to job seekers and businesses. Businesses can receive a range of services including access to a quality trained workforce, training resources and labor market data.

Videos are available on our American Job Center website at ajcswct.com.

Youth Career Zone

YouthWorks opened a new community space for local youth called Career Zone. The zone offers a safe place for local youth ages 16-24 to come and enjoy food and games while connecting with YouthWorks employees and other community partners. Youth are able to learn more about the YouthWorks program, training and education opportunities and learn about resources for youth and their families.

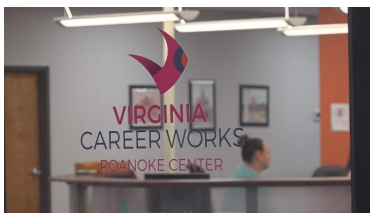
YouthWorks helps local youths ages 16-24 prepare for a career and become valuable self-reliant members of the community. Services offered at YouthWorks include career coaching, job search assistance, occupational training and life management training. Assistance with the GED exam is also offered. The zone is open Mondays and Wednesdays 3pm-8pm and is located at 1175 Broad Street, Bridgeport.



Expansion into Virginia

The WorkPlace is excited to expand operations in the state of Virginia. After winning a competitive bid, The WorkPlace now serves a 4th Virginia community at the Virginia Career Works in Roanoke.

In addition to being the Roanoke system operator, The WorkPlace will also provide youth education and training services. Our work in Roanoke will complement services we are providing through Career Centers in Norfolk, Newport News and Petersburg, Virginia.



P2E Graduate Shares Her Story

"You do not truly appreciate the sentiment of you're not alone until you are in a room full of people wearing the 'same shoes' as you. The Platform to Employment program gave me a wealth of information that was honestly immeasurable. Our arsenal of skills grew two-folds during the 5-week program prior to finding employment. The P2E team and all the various guest speakers who devoted their time to us, sincerely left an impression that people do care and do want to help.



I am now employed with Mass Mutual as an IT Project Technician and am grateful for all the tools, self-awareness and support that will now benefit me as I start this new position. Without P2E my tool kit was empty and now it is overflowing with devices that can be utilized during my new journey. I sincerely thank everyone who has supported me during my time with Platform to Employment!"

Jacqueline Root – Hartford Cohort

Save the Date



DRESS FOR SUCCESS® Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County will hold their annual *Toast to Success!* event on May 12, 2020 at the Brooklawn Country Club. Companies interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact Bernadette Deamico at bdeamico@workplace.org

Visit Us

The WorkPlace

350 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone: (203)-610-8500
Email: info2@workplace.org
Web: www.workplace.org

americanjobcenter

Locations:
Bridgeport Ansonia
Derby Stamford
Phone: 1-866-859-8818

Upcoming Events

Platform to Employment Graduation
March 5, 2020 10am
Old Judiciary Room, State Capitol Building, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2020
Beacon Hall, 2nd floor, Housatonic Community College

Toast To Success! Benefiting Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County
May 12, 2020 5:30pm-8:30pm
Brooklawn Country Club 500 Algonquin Rd, Fairfield, CT