

July 2020

We Are Still Serving Our Community

The COVID-19 pandemic has created economic uncertainty around the nation. Over 630,000 Connecticut residents have filed for unemployment. Those laid off face an uncertain future as they navigate job search in the virtual world. Although our office doors are closed to the public, The WorkPlace is still operating and continues to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Utilizing video conferencing tools allows our program staff to continue their work and connect with our customers in different and new ways.

The Health Career Academy, YouthWorks, Dress for Success, Platform to Employment (P2E), and Re-Entry programs have shifted in-person training and classes to a virtual setting. Many of our programs, including The Health Career Academy and YouthWorks, host information sessions every week via

Zoom. YouthWork has been able to help participants train and get certification in Customer Service and Sales through the National Retail Federation. Since April, The Health Career Academy had 27 job placements in various healthcare roles, including Certified Nursing Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, and Home Health Aides.



Before the Governor's stay at home order went into effect in March, Platform to Employment (P2E) and P2E Re-Entry were in the recruiting stages for their next cohort. Both programs pivoted their career training classes to online and have successfully completed cohorts in May. Over 50% of participants in P2E have found employment or are in various stages of interviewing. P2E Re-Entry recently

completed a cohort in June and had seven placements in subsidized employment.

Platform to Employment 2.0 was created in response to the rise in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new online version of P2E will help those who have lost employment due to the pandemic. The first online cohort began in June. Classes will focus on emotional support, preparing participants for the new world of work, and upgrading skills. Participants in this virtual cohort still receive many of the same benefits of in-person classes such as mentoring, career counseling, and job placement assistance.



Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield Country (DFSMFC) temporarily closed their boutique doors in March, but has remained active and continues to empower women. Since April, DFSMFC hosted over 22 professional and personal development workshops for over 200 women. These workshops are open to all women, free of charge. For more information on upcoming workshops, visit DFS page on our website, or follow us on Facebook.



Staff is still available and working with participants every day. Staff is available by phone or email. Our main number is (203)610-8500. For a list of staff phone numbers and a full list of upcoming virtual training and information sessions please visit www.workplace.org.

Success Story



Novi Suhero moved to Connecticut from Indonesia in May of 2019. She worked as a business partner for an insurance agency in Indonesia but struggled to find a career in Connecticut. Novi attended an information session at the Health Career Academy with her 19-year-old daughter in August 2019. Novi was inspired by the opportunities presented to her and enrolled in The Health Career Academy in November 2019.

Novi worked with her career counselor to create a training plan and immediately started her training to become a Patient Care Technician. She received credentials as a Phlebotomist and a PCT in March and became certified in CPR & AED through the American Red Cross. She completed Contextualized Learning for the Human Anatomy class offered through Housatonic Community College in partnership with The Health Career Academy. Novi's hard work paid off, and as of March 2020 has found employment at Edgehill as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Novi's ultimate goal for her career is to become a Missionary Nurse and plans to go back to school part-time to become a Registered Nurse.

SkillUp Training



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For those who are currently furloughed or laid off, now is a great time to learn and enhance your

skills. The State of Connecticut has expanded the SkillUp CT training program for people who are recipients of unemployment benefits, including those affected by COVID-19.

SkillUp CT offers free online learning and gives eligible residents access to around 5,000 online courses in information technology, business analysis, customer service, digital literacy, and more. SkillUp CT also offers training leading to 100 industry certifications. Career Counselors and follow up services are provided through the American Job Center.

For those interested in signing up for online learning visit:
www.ct.metrixlearning.com

Census 2020

United States®
**Census
2020**

The 2020 US Census is currently underway, and due to COVID-19 the deadline has been extended to October 31. You can send in your response online, by phone, or by mail.

Your community benefits from having an accurate census count. The results determine where and how billions of federal and state dollars get distributed. These funds are used for hospitals, schools, roads, and other programs. Programs such as Head Start, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Medicaid all use census data in determining funding. Census data also determines congressional representation. Representation is decided based on population, and having an accurate census count will ensure our state has the proper representation.

Encourage your family and friends to participate in the Census. For more information visit www.2020census.gov

We Are Moving!

**The
WorkPlace**
» Think it forward.

As of July 1, our main office will now be located at
1000 Lafayette Blvd, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Upcoming Virtual Info Sessions

YouthWorks Virtual Information Session
Every Wednesday 10am-11am via Zoom

Health Career Academy Virtual Information Session
Every Thursday 11am-12:30pm via Zoom

Visit www.workplace.org/calendar for registration information