

# The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

October 2020

## New Venture into Apprenticeships



The WorkPlace has been awarded \$4.1 million in grants to expand Registered Apprenticeship Programs for young adults 16-24 years old in CT. These programs will help address Connecticut's skills gap in industries such as healthcare and manufacturing. Burning Glass, a labor insights tool, estimates a 16.8% growth in manufacturing and a 32.9% growth in health care and social assistance jobs in Connecticut over the next decade. In a poll conducted by the Connecticut Manufacturer's Collaborative in 2019, 60% of employers cited "workforce" as their most significant need.

A \$1,997,000 award from the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration will expand youth apprenticeship programs in Southwest Connecticut in the manufacturing industry. This program will prepare an influx of highly skilled workers with industry-recognized credentials and lead to 300 job placements over the 48-month

program duration. The CT Department of Labor \$2.2 million award will expand pre-apprenticeship training in both healthcare and manufacturing. Pre-apprenticeships are designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

Both programs will incorporate a two-pronged learning approach combining both technical classroom-based learning and hands-on work experience. The design allows participants to acquire valuable hands-on experience while employers develop the highly-skilled workforce they need. The WorkPlace is pleased to partner with Connecticut's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Housatonic Community College, Ansonia High School, Justice Education Center, Career Resources, Optimus Healthcare, CT HOSA, Bigelow Tea, and Microboard for this new initiative. For more information, contact Sarah Lewis at [slewis@workplace.org](mailto:slewis@workplace.org).

## Introducing CareerHub!

**The CareerHub**

»» A WorkPlace Opportunity.

YouthWorks has rebranded and is now The CareerHub! The CareerHub will be the one-stop-shop for young

adults (16-24) and will be the central entry point for young adults looking for career services, skills training, job search assistance and placement services. The CareerHub will also connect to other WorkPlace programs including YouthBuild, Summer Earn and Learn, and Center 180. These programs and year-round career services help young adults begin rewarding career paths and become self-reliant members of the community.

Services are tailored to meet the needs and goals of each participant. CareerHub is uniquely positioned to help young adults at any of career exploration. We meet people where they are in their professional development and help them overcome barriers to success. Participants work with specialists to create a clear and structured pathway toward their career goals. Join us for an information session, held every Monday at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Grixaliz at [gmontes@workplace.org](mailto:gmontes@workplace.org) to reserve your spot.

## Calling All Veterans!

The WorkPlace is committed to helping Veterans get back on their feet and back to work. In addition to our Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, we have two initiatives designed to help Veterans



find meaningful employment. Military to Machinist connects Veterans living in Southwestern Connecticut with education and training services for careers in manufacturing. Platform to Employment for Veterans is for Connecticut Veterans who have been out of work for six months or more and need help getting back to work.

The transition from military to civilian life is often difficult and finding a way to integrate military work experience can be a challenge. Our education and career training programs are an excellent opportunity for Veterans to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths.

Wherever you may be on your career journey, we are here to help. Visit our website [www.workplace.org/programs](http://www.workplace.org/programs) for more.

# Recovery Works Begins Virtual Training



Opioid use disorder is one of the most pressing public health issues in Connecticut. Substance use and abuse in the workplace has negative effects on all aspect of a business. The WorkPlace will serve Southwest Connecticut in the state's new Recovery Works initiative. This initiative will work to combat the economic and workforce impact of the opioid crisis and encourage individuals to enter professions that could address this crisis.

Recovery Works will serve 120 participants who will receive career services such as job readiness training, self-employment strategies, and 8-week subsidies work experience.

Participants will also be offered behavioral health services to help overcome barriers to recovery. Recovery Works will also help individuals get the skills training needed to pursue careers that help mitigate the substance use disorder within the local community. Individuals can train to become a Peer Recovery Coach through the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery and can complete an apprenticeship training program to become a Peer Recovery Navigator.

Beyond career services and skills training for individuals, employers can train to become a "Recovery Friendly Workplace" through the American Job Center. Becoming a Recovery Friendly Workplace means keeping an organization healthy by keeping employees on the job, even as they recover from substance use disorder. Do you know someone who can benefit from this no-cost program? Contact Robert Frost at [rfrost@workplace.org](mailto:rfrost@workplace.org) or visit [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org).

## Moving Into New Office Space



Construction is complete at The WorkPlace's new main office at 1000 Lafayette Blvd in Bridgeport. Located on the 5th floor occupying 23,000 square feet, the space provides room for the continued growth of our operations. This

move condenses many of our staff into one location, allowing for better collaboration.

Staff will soon begin to move into the new office space. Due to restrictions with COVID-19 and to keep our team safe and healthy, employees will be working at the office on a staggered schedule and will continue working remotely part-time.

CareerHub, YouthBuild, Health Career Academy and Dress for Success remain located on Fairfield Ave in Bridgeport.

Currently the office remains closed to the public. For a list of staff contact information, visit [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org).

## Health Career Academy Participant Finds Success!



"Prior to enrolling in the Health Career Academy, I had been unemployed and was looking for help. I had the drive but was lacking for the confidence and guidance needed after being unemployed for so long as a stay at home mom. The Health Career Academy more than delivered. They helped with everything from looking over my

resume, providing interview apparel, and providing financial aid for me to further my education. The staff was always pleasant and available to help.

In January 2020, I obtained my certification as a Pharmacy Technician from Housatonic Community College, passed my Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam, and was hired at Walgreens. In July, I accepted a new position as a Certified Pharmacy Technician at Yale-New Haven Hospital Central Pharmacy. I now work hand in hand with the Patient Team to assist and provide the best care for patients. My life has changed, and I owe so much to Health Career Academy, Thank you!" - Yesenia Robinson

## Contact Us



1000 Lafayette Blvd  
5th Floor

Phone: (203) 610-8500

Email: [info2@workplace.org](mailto:info2@workplace.org)

Web [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org)

### Locations:

Bridgeport Ansonia

Derby Stamford

Phone: 1-866-859-8818

## Apply Now!

### CareerHub Virtual Information Session

Every Monday 10am-11am via Zoom

### Health Career Academy Virtual Information Session

Every Tuesday 2pm-3:30pm via Zoom

Every Thursday 11am-12:30pm via Zoom

Visit [www.workplace.org/calendar](http://www.workplace.org/calendar) for registration information