

ReWork Connecticut

Rebuilding Connecticut's Workforce | April 21, 2021

Thousands of students and workers across Connecticut have had their education and careers adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we begin to fully reopen the economy, Connecticut is taking aggressive measures to create high-quality, innovative, and equitable educational and training programs for all students and job seekers across the state. These investments will strengthen our workforce pipeline, accelerate our economic recovery, and greatly improve the quality of life for our residents.



What:

Governor Lamont proposes that \$130 million dollars be allocated towards developing Connecticut's workforce. This funding will be used to ensure people are returning to work, students have access to high-quality programs starting in high school, and residents have access to a comprehensive series of online workforce services.

How:

The Office of Workforce Strategy has proposed a series of initiatives that require strategic coordination and partnership across state government, educational institutions, businesses, and community partners to drive success and progress.

JOB TRAINING & SUPPORT

- Develop a series of short-term job training programs aligned to in-demand occupations that will train over 9,000 residents
- Design a statewide intake portal so that students and job seekers can apply to programs in one, centralized, place
- Develop job training programs for 1,000 incarcerated individuals to safely reenter the community with credentials and skills
- Design job training programs for 1,000 disconnected youth
- Promote and expand work-based learning opportunities, such as apprenticeships and internships to high school and college students
- Provide 2,000 high school seniors with academic and career support to enroll in a postsecondary education or enter the workforce

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Increase access to high-quality, industry-aligned, dual credit and dual enrollment programs to thousands high school seniors
- Integrate advanced manufacturing industry 4.0 curriculum into more than 30 districts
- Extend technical high school program hours for 10 programs so that hundreds of more students can receive support each year

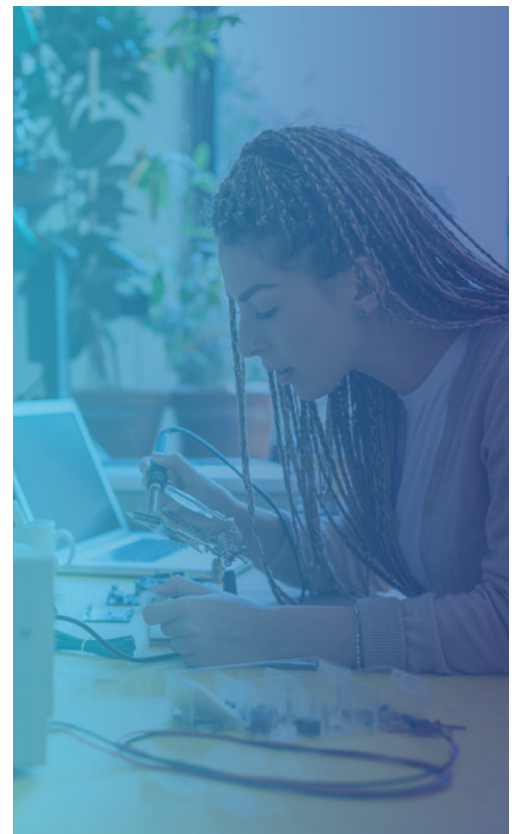
SYSTEM REDESIGN

- Provide tuition assistance to over 230 individuals to receive their teaching certificates through alternative teacher certification programs
- Update the teacher certification regulations so that the teacher certification process is streamlined going forward and more teachers are entering the workforce
- Design a state-of-the-art workforce development platform that provides online workforce services to students and job seekers
- Centralize data so that policymakers and state agencies can evaluate the outcomes and performance of the workforce system
- Provide FAFSA support to over 30,000 high school seniors

Why:

The COVID-19 pandemic has displaced thousands of Connecticut residents, leading to the disruption of multiple industries and the uncertainty for many individuals regarding future career prospects, especially among racial and ethnic minorities. The ARPA has given Connecticut the needed flexibility to immediately address this unemployment crisis by designing short-term job training programs that are aimed at quickly upskilling individuals in high-demand occupations so they can return to work in a career that is pandemic-proof and allows them to grow within a thriving industry in Connecticut.

The ARPA funds have not only allowed Connecticut to better address the immediate needs of students and job seekers, but also has allowed Connecticut to take needed steps to building a stronger and more agile workforce to meet the future demands of the 21st century. By redesigning the workforce system infrastructure to be more focused on outcomes and equity, Connecticut is positioning itself to make targeted and effective investments that further the needs of students and job seekers of all backgrounds, while ensuring Connecticut's employers have access to a talent pipeline that is diverse, aligned to the needs of employers, and positioned to help Connecticut's economy grow in the future.



Using the opportunity of ARPA, CT will provide immediate support for residents to return to work, while laying the foundation for a stronger future workforce.



Governor Ned Lamont
April 21, 2021