

What Businesses Have to Say About the Program

“We are very pleased with the program. It kept our staff intact and relieved during some very challenging times. We appreciate your response and outstanding customer service to all of our questions or concerns....”

- JoAnn R., President & CEO, Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut

“Shared Work Program has helped our company tremendously during the pandemic. We could not have survived the downturn of our business if not for the Shared Work Program and we are grateful for giving the opportunity to participate in this CT DOL program. This is one of the most efficient government run programs I have experienced. The staff working at the DOL Shared Work Program responded to our questions promptly with compassion, efficiency, and knowledge. I want to thank everyone working at Shared Work Program whole heartedly.”

- Anonymous

“As you are well aware, COVID-19 has impacted businesses throughout the state and it definitely hit our company hard. 2020 was a difficult year as we saw our revenues drop dramatically. The program has provided us the opportunity to continue to employ our team members by reducing their work hours and utilizing the program to help offset those lost work hours. This was extremely helpful in the spring of 2020 where we had a number of employees only work 2 out of 5 days each week. This also allowed employees to maintain their healthcare coverage as well. We just applied for another extension and received it till Sept 2021. We are hoping we will not have to use it again as we are seeing our business beginning to grow again but it's nice to know, the option is available to us. Finally, the DOL Shared Work team has done a great job, especially early on when I know your team was hit hard with so many CT residents applying for unemployment. There was a slight delay early on to get going but shortly into the program, timing of payments were consistent. We appreciate all the hard work and effort that went into servicing us. Much appreciated.

- John, manufacturing company in Connecticut

“I can't say anything bad about it [Shared Work] your staff was very informative and all ways on top of the whole situation. I would always get emails checking on questions I sent to them for help and even your staff was very informative. They did what they had to do to make the program a successful one for our company. Please give them all an A+ for all the hard work and dedication for making this happen during these difficult times.”

- Efrain L., Production Manager, Ansonia Steel Fabrication Co.

“The Shared Work Program enabled our small firm to retain two critical employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and enabled us to bridge the period between the Paycheck Protection Program's First and Second Draws. Without this state assistance, we would have had to furlough the employees, losing the productivity that enabled us to stay

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in business. Also, they would have ended up on Unemployment Insurance, costing the state more. Lastly, the process was straightforward and simple, with minimal administrative burden."

- *Anonymous*

"To be short and simple, Avery Abrasives would have had to close its doors last year had not our employees been helped by the Shared Work Program. For several weeks we went to three days and then eventually to four days of production. I am sure that we would have lost several of our production staff if they did not have their lost wages supplemented by the Shared Work Program. Participating in the Shared Work program allowed Avery management to help our loyal workers get through this awful pandemic without laying many of them off ...without benefits. Avery has always been a "paternalistic" employer despite current business trends and this program allowed us to continue this proud heritage since 1960. You guys did a great job during this time and made it easy for us to utilize the Shared Work Program. I know that the DOL was not always held in high regard this past year but you guys came through and Avery is still here, in part, to your dedication and professionalism. Well Done!

- *Bob G., Avery Abrasives*

"The Shared Work Program is a great program. It has been a life saver for our small restaurant. The program gave us the ability to keep our entire staff throughout the difficult times of this pandemic. Without the Shared Work we would have had to make difficult decisions on who to lay off or not lay off. Our employees are grateful to have the ability to work limited hours instead of being completely unemployed. In May of 2020 when Restaurants in CT were able to open for outdoor dining our employees were all willing to come back to work for less pay than they would have received from Unemployment compensation , telling me that my staff enjoys working not just for income but for their livelihood. The Shared work program gave them that. Thank You! This program has been a blessing to our mental health."

- *Laura C., Monkey Farm Café*

"The Shared Work program was a lifesaver for us. As a small nonprofit theatre company in the industry most likely to be the last to fully reopen, we could not have survived the pandemic without the Shared Work program. At the very least, we would have had to let many of our regular staff go. The simplicity of the program was terrific in that our staff didn't have to worry about individual weekly filing - I did the one weekly report. I can't think of a more win-win-win program offered: our business saved significantly; the Labor Department saved on the amount paid out (and had one "claim" from us each week instead of nine.); and our employees received more money than they would have, (exclusive of the Federal supplements) had they been fully unemployed. I can't think of a better-conceived or executed government program and have suggested it to dozens of colleagues trying to keep a business afloat in horrible economic situations. Thank you to the CT Department of Labor for providing this opportunity."

- *Lou U., Executive Director, Curtain Call, Inc.*