



Worcester Jobs Fund Graduates Building Trades Pre-Apprentices!

WORCESTER, MA— The Worcester Jobs Fund is now providing several training programs that prepare residents for employment in a long-term career path in fields where there is an immediate workforce need. During this past year, a total of 25 individuals have graduated from training programs in construction, commercial driving, diesel mechanics, and community health work.

“The Worcester Jobs Fund is an important new tool that offers Worcester residents the opportunity to get the skills necessary to fill open positions in our workforce,” said Worcester City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr. “This benefits us all, providing a workforce that has the skills to meet the needs of employers.”

During August, the Worcester Jobs Fund completed its first 8-week cycle of the Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program and graduated 7 local residents! The training focused on career exploration of building trades such as electrical, pipefitting, roofing, carpentry, and more. The program was made possible through funding from the Worcester Jobs Fund, the state legislature, and a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The goal of the program was to recruit individuals who have been underrepresented in the building trades and prepare them for placement into a union apprenticeship program within the building trades. In the first cycle of graduates, 6 were individuals of color and 2 were female. All of the participants are excited about the opportunities ahead of them in the building trades industry and one graduate has already started working with the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 4.

“The Worcester Jobs Fund and Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program do a wonderful job supporting and providing resources for young adults in Worcester who are committed to making a difference in their communities,” said MA Senate Majority Leader Harriette L. Chandler. “I have seen students successfully complete the program and remain a proud supporter of all that is being done to promote economic, vocational, and community wellness in Central Massachusetts.”

The Worcester Jobs Fund was created to bring a direct benefit to Worcester residents in the form of jobs, job training, and related services. The Worcester Community Labor Coalition’s commitment to connecting Worcester residents to good jobs made them a key partner to the program during both the initial development and current implementation of the program. The Worcester Jobs Fund has support from several additional local partners and is monitored by an oversight committee that includes representatives from The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Central Mass Workforce Investment Board, Workforce Central Career Center, Worcester Community Labor Coalition and Worcester Public Schools. The Fund consists of a \$100,000 annual city tax levy appropriation for each of its first three years.

The Worcester Jobs Fund is committed to continue providing Worcester residents with additional training opportunities for entry level positions with strong long-term career opportunities and is actively recruiting for their upcoming Worcester Diesel Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program that will begin during October 2016. The Worcester Jobs Fund is also preparing for the next cycle of the Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program that is scheduled to begin during Spring 2017. Please contact Kelsey Lamoureux at (508)373-7641 or LamoureuxK@worcesterma.gov for more information about upcoming training opportunities.