



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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September 21, 2021

Senator Michael Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and
Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Patricia Jehlen
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Labor
and Workforce Development
State House, Room 424
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and
Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Joshua Cutler
House Chair, Joint Committee on Labor
and Workforce Development
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James
House Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the
House
State House Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the
Senate
State House, Room 335
Boston MA 02133

Dear Legislators and Clerks:

On behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS) and the Commonwealth Corporation, we are pleased to present you with the Workforce Training Fund Program (WTFP) Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Workforce Training Fund Program Advisory Committee for their commitment and dedication to the Workforce Training Fund Program. Through our continued partnership we are working together to assist the Commonwealth's businesses grow and thrive in an increasingly competitive global economy.

In the face of unprecedented changes in the nature of work and learning caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, during Fiscal Year 2021, many Massachusetts employers have transitioned from survival-mode to recovery-mode. Throughout the pandemic Commonwealth Corporation has introduced accommodations to allow extended timelines for completion of on-going training projects, waived waiting periods between grants to allow businesses to immediately address emerging needs, increased resources for small business recovery, and streamlined access resulting in greater participation of small businesses. Small businesses have been most significantly impacted by the pandemic,

particularly minority and women-owned small businesses. Throughout the pandemic the strategic focus of the Workforce Training Fund Program has been increasing access and resources for small and diverse businesses. During FY2021, 82% of the 742 businesses engaged were small businesses (i.e. 100 or fewer employees).

One of the key priorities of the Workforce Training Fund Program is to support businesses in job creation. Each year we analyze the job creation impact of WTFP General Program grants that were awarded to businesses in previous years and have completed their training activities. In FY21, 106 training General Program grants completed training. Overall, the businesses involved in these programs reported 8.2% employment growth over their two-year grant period as compared to 3.3% statewide and 6.1% nationally during the same period. Participating employers had projected that they would add 1,253 workers by the completion of grant-funded training. By the time they finished training they had added 1,567 workers to their Massachusetts workforces -25% more job creation than their original projections.

- During FY21, more than \$20 million in training grants were awarded, including grants in all 16 MassHire Workforce Development Board Areas.
- These grants will train nearly 13,000 workers from 560 businesses by 2021.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the business owners in your districts and throughout the Commonwealth know about the Workforce Training Fund and are successful in securing grants that support them in increasing the skills of their employees, ultimately improving their productivity and competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Rosalin Acosta
Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development