

Workforce Systems Committee Agenda – February 25, 2021

1. Introductions
2. Updates from WB and Committee Members as a result of Covid-19
3. One-Stop Procurement – update – responses due in on February 25
4. Mass Internet Connect
5. Training update – Construction, Manufacturing, Healthcare, IT
6. Northeast Regional Planning efforts – *HUB Grant and year 3 Regional Planning*
7. Update on return to face-to-face services at Career Center
8. WIOA Partnership *update*
9. Objectives and Goals for FY 2021
10. Next Meeting – April 15, 2021

Updates:

One-Stop Procurement *Update*

- RFP Released December 7, 2020
- Bidders Conference January 7, 2021
- Proposals Due February 25, 2021
- Proposal Review March 2021
- Executive Committee Review of recommendations April 2021
- Full Board Vote May 13, 2021



Mass Internet Connect

- Do you lack internet access to conduct a job search?
- Do you lack the technology (laptop/desktop) to conduct a job search?
- Do you need assistance with basic computer functions/programs?



Mass Internet Connect is a new program that provides subsidized internet access and/or an internet accessible device to assist with tools necessary to get back to work.

Please contact either of the following staff members to go over eligibility and to learn more about these great resources. Initial eligibility includes:

- Must be unemployed and a resident of MA
- Currently working and/or ready to work with our MassHire Career Center. We offer great services for job seekers and those looking to enter a training program to improve their skill sets.

Michelle Vroman

mvroman@masshire-nscareers.org

Michael Alfaro

malfaro@masshire-nscareers.org



To access detailed information about this program, use your camera phone on either of the URLs. Program ends 6/30/21.



Mass Internet Connect Program

Highlights of the program include:

- Program runs through June 30, 2021
- Chromebook device subsidy program (might be the largest draw for customers)
- Internet subsidy program for Comcast subscribers (Customer needs to be the only one in the home with a Comcast account.) Amounts vary.
- Please contact 978-825-7200 (MassHire North Shore Career Center) OR

Michelle Vroman

mvroman@masshire-nscareers.org

Michael Alfaro

malfaro@masshire-nscareers.org

Career Technical Initiative

Current North Shore update for programs through Essex Tech:

- HVAC
- Plumbing (currently fully subscribed)
- Auto tech
- Welding*
- Construction laborer

*grant paid through EOHED

Outreach, assessment and career coaching, job placement, retention through MassHire Career Centers

Second round of RFPs for tech schools out now with due date of Feb. 24 – Essex Tech is applying for electrical technician, as well as second round for construction laborer and/or welding

AMTEP/NAMC Programming

Have started year 2 of this program

Used new remote job fair platform – Premium – for successful job fair for graduates from the fall programs

Programs running at LVTI and ET

Additional cycles will run during the year

Meeting with Gloucester High School leadership to re-start new manufacturing training in Gloucester

Working hard with Sperling Interactive on manufacturing information campaign – videos to be released soon

Interested students should contact the MassHire Career Center

Healthcare Hub Project Proposal

Overview – Healthcare Training and Career Ladder Development

- Identify incumbent CNAs and MAs interested in becoming nurses (Group 1)
- Identify new individuals who are interested in nursing but are in need of immediate employment in the CNA/MA occupations (Group 2)
- (Group 1) Provide career coaching, academic assessments and tutoring, mentoring and personal support to understand what steps they need to take to remain in their current positions while they are applying for, and eventually attending, nursing school or attaining a higher-level clinical position (LPN or RN programs)
- (Group 2) Health care employers interview new applicants and make an offer that they will hire members of this group once they pass the CNA or MA course. Once through training, the individuals begin work and also begin to move up the pathway toward nursing school or higher-level clinical positions,

Project Proposal Overview (cont'd.)

- Courses and professional development made available to both Group 1 and Group 2
- The ultimate goal of this project is to have a percentage (still in discussion) of all project participants either in nursing school or training for higher-level clinical positions at the end of this two-year grant.
- Employers would arrange work schedules to allow for training and education in a convenient manner. Employers would also provide mentors and tutors from within their workforce to support the employee along the way.

Healthcare Hub Education Committee

- Collecting an inventory of healthcare training programs in vo-techs, community colleges, and universities in Northeast region
- Discussion themes:
 - Faculty shortage and difficulty finding candidates with the minimum education and experience required for the pay offered (waitlists)
 - Need for ESOL support
 - Students' difficulty paying for tuition
 - Difficulty finding clinical placements for students
 - Students struggle to attend class and manage childcare

Draft Project Timeline

- **2-year grant starting in June 2021** – hire a part-time project coordinator
- **June 2021 – August 2021:** Recruitment of 30 (?) unemployed for CNA and/or MA training who are interested in becoming RNs
- **June 2021 – August 2021:** Recruitment of 15 (?) incumbent CNAs and/or MAs who are interested in training and becoming RNs
- **September 2021 – April 2022:** Unemployed participants will go through training (CNA, MA) and are hired by employers
- **September 2021 – May 2023:** Participant check-ins, monthly info sessions on nursing programs (financial aid) – potential attendance in general education or related courses
- **September 2021 – May 2023:** Academic tutoring for test taking (TEAS or like exam to get into nursing programs)
- **June 2023:** Enrollment and acceptance into nursing programs 70% (?) of original unemployed and incumbent workers

Regional Planning Updates:

Regional Planning: Working with MAPC to make our heat maps more useful

- 1. Updating employment numbers and locations post-COVID – most likely in 2022*
- 2. NOW – on a pilot basis delving more deeply into the relationships between the locations of our priority industries when compared with affordable housing, transportation, educational services, etc.*
- 3. Determining how this information can be truly useful*

Goals and Objectives

Objectives and Goals for FY 2021:

1st Goal of our Strategic Plan: The North Shore WB will improve and enhance the workforce system including the North Shore Career Center as well as WIOA and other partners) to respond to current and future demand and supply challenges on the North Shore and within the Northeast Region.

Objective #1 Build upon the capacity of the North Shore Workforce System as led by the North Shore Career Center to respond to labor market needs by implementing and fulfilling the requirements of the Career Center contract, including the WIOA Partner MOU

Objective #2 Increase coordination and collaboration with educational, human service and government organizations (including WIOA mandated partners) to increase understanding and expertise in relation to serving the business customer and on placing all job seekers into critical vacancies in the region

Objective #3 Identify and develop strategies to help employers and job seekers to reskill and grow post-COVID 19 - in particulars those who have permanently lost employment

Themes and Activities

Themes for 2021:

- Respond to workforce issues surrounding COVID and the re-engagement process for job seeker and businesses in the hiring process
- One Stop Contract and Performance of the North Shore Career Center
- WIOA Partners and Memorandum of Understanding – in particular the referral portal for customers
- Coordinating with and Advocating for Economic Development

Themes and Activities

Activities:

- RFP released and processing of One Stop Career Center bid
- Quarterly review of contract related to the local standards and goals set
- Career Center Certification review complete by June 30, 2021
- Quarterly trainings delivered for partner staff on regional LMI/career pathways/available programming
- Research and share innovative training models (remote and/or in-person) in COVID environment that get people from occupations not available/negatively affected by covid and others into priority and critical industry jobs

WSC Committee Agenda – February 25, 2021

- Others Updates from Committee Members
- Next Meeting – April 15, 2021

Thank you! 😊