

The Workforce System creates taxpayers. We put the Capital Region back to work.



Current reality

- **Continued record long term unemployment rates:** double digit unemployment in major cities: Hartford 15.7%; New Britain 12.6%; East Hartford 10.6%; over 10,000 individuals in our region alone may exhaust their unemployment benefits, which will further burden public assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).
- **Small businesses continue to struggle to sustain and grow:** small businesses depend on skilled, trained workers for growth. Based on a recent survey, 80% of businesses in advanced manufacturing and health care presently have job openings that cannot be filled due to skill gaps. In the past three years, over 90% of employers have seen at least some change in the types of skills workers need workers to participate in job training to stay competitive in the global economy.
- **Workforce ravaged by economic challenges:** thousands of regional residents have already exhausted their unemployment benefits. Increased numbers of dislocated workers and other unemployed have been out of work longer putting stresses on public job services needed for continued skill development, job search and job placement. Many longer-term unemployed and under-employed workers have lost their houses, wealth/assets, dignity and are becoming harder to employ. At the same time, Connecticut now has the 7th oldest workforce in the country – leaving businesses with a precarious outlook for their future workforce.

Workforce system responds. In 2010:

- **The Connecticut CTWorks One-Stop Career Centers** in Hartford, New Britain, Enfield and Manchester, along with a solid youth employment program, last year provided nearly 35,000 Capital Region adults and youth with job placements, training and other workforce services.
- **Over 6,000 Capitol Region residents received job placement and/or summer employment** with the support of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds.
- **The Workforce system creates jobs.** Workforce programs are an essential component of the Capital Region's job creation strategy. We partner with employers to prepare workers for high skill/high demand jobs. Here is just one example.



Victory Energy Solutions in New Britain, CT began in 2009 focusing on high-quality energy management services, saving customers hundreds of dollars on their heating and electricity bills, while at the same time, helping the environment.

In order for the business to get off to an optimal start, business owners Paul Keyes, Raquel Kennedy and Michael Gionfriddo (not pictured) needed a workforce certified with “green” technical skills as well as exemplary soft, “people” skills that would help their business prosper. The workforce system, CTWorks, education partners and the Jobs Funnel had what it took to get the job done. In order to build their workforce, several Jobs Funnel candidates were given on-the-job training opportunities. Others were hired after obtaining key certifications through the Jobs Funnel. To grow the skills of their existing

workers, Victory Energy Solutions continues to provide incumbent worker training to meet increasingly sophisticated certifications required by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. Victory Energy Solutions was recognized as a “workforce star” in June 2010, and is positioned to grow, creating jobs for the region far into the future.

If Congress eliminates or decreases WIA Job Training - Capital Region Taxpayers, Businesses, and American Workers Lose ...

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Ramifications of funding cuts

- The CTWorks One-Stop Centers in the Capital Region will see severely curtailed services to thousands of residents, with increases in local unemployment likely. Some CTWorks Centers may close, forcing job seekers to travel further for services.
- Other community programs will not be able to assist the Capital Region's residents with training. That will decrease the number of residents who could benefit from skill advancement and improved literacy.
- Capital Region businesses struggle to remain competitive without a pool of qualified workers.
- More small business closures.
- Loss of businesses and corresponding tax revenues to local, county and state governments.
- Increased unemployment insurance fees in the thousands of dollars to local employers.
- Continued erosion of families as viable economic units.



We put the Capitol Region back to work: WORKFORCE BOARDS are positioned to implement solutions.

- MEETING BUSINESS DEMAND for more skilled workers
- PREPARING YOUTH to lead the future workforce
- REVERSING THE POVERTY TRENDS by expanding access to worker education and training
- FOSTERING BUSINESS innovation and entrepreneurial growth

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