Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

# Questions from Appropriations February 26, 2025 hearing

### <u>Senator Cathy Osten & Representative Toni Walker</u>

Please provide more detail about current breakdown of federal & state CTDOL staff positions. Specifically, please provide a breakdown of the agency's headcount: General Fund (GF), federally funded, vacancies, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

# CTDOL Current Staffing

Funding Source	Description	Full Time Equivalent (FTE) (not rounded)	Percent of Total FTEs (not rounded)
1. State	General Fund appropriation- filled	214.60	30% (29.39%)
2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity	Federal Funds to State, appropriated to	39.95	6% (5.47%)
Grant WIA/ WIOA	CTDOL via State Budget- filled		
3. Other Fund / Restricted State	Agency Civil Penalties, Fees – filled, not	19.57	3% (2.68%)
Accounts	General Fund		
4. UI ARPA – Unemployment Insurance	Funding ended 12/31/24	0	0
5. Federal Funding – direct to agency	Appropriated directly to CTDOL- filled	438.89	60% (60.12%)
6. State funded vacancies	Funded- recruiting now or soon	6.9	0.95%
7. Federally funded vacancies	Funded – recruiting now or soon	10.1	1.38%
State Funded total	Sources 1 + 2 + 6 = state funded total	261 State budgeted (261.45)	
TOTAL FILLED		713 FILLED	98% (97.67%)
TOTAL VACANT	Funded – working on recruitments	17	2% (2.33%)
FILLED +VACANT	State + Federally = funded	<b>730 FUNDED</b> (730.01)	100%

Gov's proposed Budget - expansion options

9 FTE for SFY 26 & SFY 27 for UI

1 FTE for Paid Sick Leave Expansion

Gov's Proposed Budget Book pg. B-36 and...

OFA Budget Summary Doc pg. 9 Labor Department

Provide Funding and Staff to Support Unemployment Insurance Provide funding of \$538,695 in FY 26 and \$523,695 in FY 27 and nine

positions to support various functions, including the Unemployment Insurance contact center which handles all calls and

communications from unemployed residents and for the Integrity Unit which ensures the validity of employment insurance claims.

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

### UI - Consumer Contact Center

Assist legitimately eligible claimants receive benefits and assist Integrity unit to sort legitimate from fraud with verification of held claims. Most frequently, claimants are reaching out with questions regarding their lack of payment at that time.

- Since Consumer Contact Center established (7/2020): 3,424,894 calls/cases handled
- Weekly average of ~ 24,000 customers attempting to reach the CCC each week.
  - o 6,452 appointments currently scheduled.
  - Wait for callback is now 5-15 days for an appointment depending upon the issue.
- Have 88 staff Since end temporary staff 12/30/24 January 2023- 154 staff at CCC

Integrity Unit – Attempts to defraud Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs, both nationally and in CT, continue to be at unprecedented levels since the pandemic.

This unit detects and prevents fraudulent claims from being paid, thereby protecting employer taxes which subsidize the UI Trust Fund. Tactics used by criminals shift frequently and automated solutions cannot take the place of constant monitoring and data analysis by staff.

# Fraud Prevention

- 431,132 fraudulent applications stopped
  - Est. \$4.6 billion prevented from being dispersed from March 2020 through November 2024
- Fictious employers: (since December 2022) 1,072 detected \$144,403,630 prevented from being dispersed.

Prosecution Numbers: (All since the start of the pandemic)

- State arrests (Office of the Chief State's Attorney/CTDOL- ended task force this month due to lack of federal funding) (Includes arrests for ID theft fraud and "traditional" fraud legitimate claimant working, collecting, not reporting wages)
  - Number of arrests 21
  - Total amount overpaid (OP) = \$406,755.00
  - Total amount of monetary penalty (MP) assessed = \$155,143.00
  - Total OP + MP = \$561,898.00
  - o Total amount recovered through August 2024- \$125,855.66

# • Federal (OIG) arrests:

(All ID theft fraud, either claimant-level or fictitious employer-related)

- Number of arrests 6
- o Total amount of fraud- \$2,047,310.00

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### Temporary Staff paid by federal pandemic funding.

- The peak count of temporary staff hired by CTDOL during the pandemic was approximately 320 Full Time Equivalent positions (FTEs) at one time.
- ALL accepted positions with known "end dates".
- Some were then extended multiple times because CTDOL sought out, applied for and was awarded additional federal grants to keep their work going as long as possible.
- In July 2024 they were told that with the end of federal pandemic funding so too needed to be the end of their positions 12/30/24.
- Offers were made to assist with reemployment services through the American Job Centers.
- Many were successfully brought into permanent positions within CTDOL and other state agencies through competitive recruitments.
- As these were bargaining unit positions, the state followed appropriate procedures to separate individuals which includes language from the layoff articles.
- Prior to 12/30/24, the remaining they were working for:
  - o Consumer Contact Center (16 ended 12/30/24)
  - o Benefit Payment Control Unit (4 ended 12/30/24-14 remain until 9/30/25 due to new federal funded short-term grant)
  - o Integrity Unit (5 ended 12/30/24)
  - o Adjudications (1ended 12/30/24)
  - o Merit Rating Unit (1 ESII ended 12/30/24)
  - Appeals Division Lower Level (9 ended 12/30/24 1 remains until 9/30/25 due to new federally funded short-term grant)

# Senator Cathy Osten & Representative Toni Walker

Please provide the following information for all Appeal levels of Unemployment (UI) Benefits.

- 1) Description of Appeal Level
- 2) # of pending Appeals at each level
- 3) How old are pending appeals at each level
- 4) # of staff assigned to work at each level

### Unemployment Insurance (UI) Appeal's Process:

Levels of "Appeals" in order of hierarchy (with staff numbers):

- 1. Adjudications Unit within the Administrator/CTDOL (63 FTEs)
- 2. Lower Level- Referee Division of Quasi-Judicial Employment Security Appeals Division (**36** permanent FTEs, **6** temporary FTEs federally funded with end date of 9/30/25)
- **3.** Higher Authority-Board of Review within the Quasi-Judicial Employment Security Appeals Division (**12** permanent FTEs, **1** per diem)
- 4. Superior Court and Appellate Court within the Judicial System

# **Connecticut Department of Labor** Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

In compliance with federal and state law, CTDOL must determine UI eligibility by addressing all monetary (permitted wages, weekly benefit amounts, etc.) and non-monetary (able and available, work search, separations, etc.) issues. Accordingly, each claimant/employer decision requires 'due process', which allows for an appeal to the next level of authority.

CT's law requires an initial review and determination by the UI program Administrator, CTDOL. This first level of review is done in the Adjudications Unit and results in a formal determination to the parties, usually defined as claimant and employer. If either aggrieved party files an appeal of the Administrator's/Adjudication's decision, the case is transferred to the Appeals Division, a Quasi-Judicial Authority. The Appeals Division's Lower Level Referee Division conducts a hearing, which is 'de novo' or 'from the beginning'. The Referee allows each party to present first-hand testimony to the issue(s) under appeal. The Lower Level disposition affords the aggrieved party the opportunity to file an appeal to the Appeals Division's Higher Authority, the Board of Review. The Board of Review reviews the record(s), examines the prior facts and disposition, and provides a determination based on the information provided to both the Adjudications and Lower Level Referee Division of Appeals. The Board of Review party the opportunity to file an appeal to Superior Court and the Superior Court's disposition affords the aggrieved party the opportunity to file an appeal to the Appeals.

### Adjudications:

- Total pending hearings requiring a review and/or decision as of 2/28/2025 = 8011
- Current average wait is 12-25 days
- Breakout of the wait by volume:
  - o Up to 20 days: 6688
  - o 21-30 days: 904
  - o 31-40 days: 247
  - o 41+ days: 172
- Oldest pending hearings are 2 cases from November 2024 and 18 from December of 2024

# Appeals (Lower Level Referee Division):

- Total pending appeals requiring a decision as of 3/3/2025 = 3,706
  - Employer appellant 945 and Claimant appellant = 2,761
    - <u>Scheduled</u> for a hearing = 1,103
      - Employer 189 and Claimant 914
    - Of those scheduled, the average wait for the hearing to be conducted is four weeks
    - <u>'To be' scheduled</u> = 2603, and the average wait time for the hearing to be scheduled is three months
- If an appeal is filed today, then the average wait for the hearing to be scheduled, held, and a disposition order is four months and three weeks

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

- Breakout for above: hearing to be scheduled is three months, hearing held one month later, and a decision is rendered within three weeks
- Of the current pending appeals:
  - Number of appeals to be disposed within 180 days = 3,500
  - Number of appeals to be disposed within 181-270 days = 206
- The oldest appeal(s) waiting for action are 12 appeals from June of 2023 with a fraud integrity 'criminal imposter' classification and 1 'late' claimant appeal filed on August 28, 2024

# Appeals (Higher Authority Board of Review):

- Total pending appeals requiring a decision as of 2/28/2025 = 1,413
  - o Employer appellant 221 and Claimant appellant 1,192
- If an appeal is filed today, then the average wait time for the review to be scheduled, conducted, and a disposition order is an average of 248 days, and the median age is 193 days
- The oldest appeal(s) waiting for action is from 2/23/2022; also, there are 13 appeals that were filed in 2022 pertaining to separations involving a quit or discharge in response to a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination, and which involve religious freedom issues.

### Superior Court:

- Total pending appeals requiring a decision as of 3/3/2025 = 16 pending superior court and there will be 32 more submitted to the superior court (pending certification of the record to court)
- The oldest appeal waiting for Superior Court action is from April 2023

# Appellate Court:

• Total pending appeals requiring a decision as of 3/3/2025 = 0/none

# Representative Tammy Nuccio

# Please provide a history of CT Youth Employment Program (CYEP) funding allocations.

# CTDOL's records for the previous 16 years of CYEP appropriations (SID 12205) indicate the following:

	Final Legislative	
<u>SFY</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	Notes:
2010	\$1,500,000	
2011	\$3,500,000	
2012	\$3,500,000	
2013	\$4,500,000	The legislature added \$1m Mid-Term Budget Revision
2014	\$4,500,000	
2015	\$5,500,000	The legislature added \$1m Mid-Term Budget Revision

Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

2016	\$5,156,250	
2017	\$5,225,000	
2018	\$1,000,000	\$500,000 OPM holdback, \$500,000 Available
2019	\$4,000,020	
2020	\$5,000,040	
2021	\$5,000,096	\$500,000 OPM holdback, \$4,500,096 Available
2022	\$5,000,905	
2023	\$5,004,018	
2024	\$5,267,892	
2025	\$10,268,488	

SFY 24 Connecticut Youth Employment Program (CYEP) for Youth Employment and Career Exploration

- Subrecipient: Distributed to all 5 Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) pursuant to CGS 31-3mm
- Amount expended: \$5,142,824.26
- Ages 14-24
- Year-Round Program with approximately 80% youth served in the Summer.
- 2574 Served SFY24
- Program activities = career exploration or work experience
- Minor lapses from Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) and Workforce Alliance totaling a combined \$19,706.74.
- Notes on <u>SFY 25</u>:
  - o SFY 25 amounts (\$10.2M state level)
    - According to WDBs Quarterly Reports as of 12/31/24 a total of 3603 enrolled in CYEP = approx. 40% increase thus far.
  - o Minimum wage increases took effect from \$15.00 to \$15.69 to \$16.35 summer season

#### CYEP <u>State</u> Funds only:

		1
CWP	SFY 25	\$3,270,513.00
CWP	SFY 24	\$1,677,824.00
EWIB	SFY 25	\$1,006,312.00
EWIB	SFY 24	\$ 516,253.00
NRWIB	SFY 25	\$2,264,202.00
NRWIB	SFY 24	\$1,161,570.00
Work. All.	SFY 25	\$2,264,202.00
Work. All.	SFY 24	\$1,161,570.00
Workplace	SFY 25	\$1,257,890.00
Workplace	SFY 24	\$ 645,317.00

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

### CYEP Supporting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds:

CTDOL's line item of \$500K distributed via 31-3mm from 3/1/24-6/30/25

CWP	\$162,500.00
EWIB	\$ 50,000.00
NRWIB	\$112,500.00
Work. All.	\$112,500.00
Workplace	\$ 62,500.00

SFY 25 Youth Employment Awards Total (CYEP + CYEP for Dept Children & Families + CYEP for CCSD + ARPA + WorkPlace's grants listed below)

CWP	\$4,122,697.00				
EWIB	\$1,651,015.00				
NRWIB	\$2,952,746.50				
Work. All.	\$2,945,750.00				
Workplace	\$4,618,937.00				

CYEP - Eligibility criteria for program participants (youth workers)

- 14 to 24 years old at point of enrollment and;
- Legally authorized to work in the United States and;
- At least one self-attested eligibility category. Categories include youth with disability, foster child, pregnant/parenting (including noncustodial parent), homeless or runaway, justice involved youth, English language learner, low income (public assistance receipt such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) / Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or current Workforce Investment & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth participant or household include 185% or less FPL).

Examples of CYEP-eligible employment and career exploration opportunities

- The types of work and industry sectors continue to grow due to the ongoing partnerships established by the WDBs but here are a few for reference as reported by some of the Workforce Development Boards-
  - Example jobs: office assistants; social media assistants; camp counselors; maintenance; HR interns; customer service; agricultural assistant; carpentry intern; childcare intern; community assistant; summer camp assistant; food service; library assistant; plumbing assistant.
  - Example industries: Art, Banking and Finance, Construction, Healthcare, Business, Computer/IT, Education, Entertainment, Leisure and Recreation, Hospitality, Food Services, Retail, Social Service, Landscaping, Maintenance.

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

#### Senator Joan Hartley

Please provide more detail & explanation about Enhanced Wage Records – Passed in PA 21-2 Sec 270 and amended in PA 23-4. For the 2025 Legislative Session, <u>HB 6865</u>: An Act Implementing the Governor's Recommendations for General Government (Section 11) contains repeal of these expanded wage reporting provisions.

#### Enhanced Wage Reporting (Spreadsheet Attached as "Enhanced Wage Records Fiscal")

#### Passed in PA 21-2 Sec 270

(B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2024, unless waived pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, any employer subject to this chapter, with one hundred or more employees, shall include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the following data for each employee receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter: Such employee's gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, highest education completed, home address, address of primary work site, occupational code under the standard occupational classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage, employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable, employment end date. The information required pursuant to this subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly filings of employers subject to this chapter with ninety-nine or fewer employees commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2026, except employers subject to this chapter with forty-nine or fewer employees without an electronic payroll system shall include such information commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2028. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to require an employee to provide information about gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status or disability status if not otherwise required by law. The administrator may issue guidance defining each such data field.

#### Then amended in PA 23-4.

#### Sec. 31-225a

(j) (1) (A) Each employer subject to this chapter shall submit quarterly, on forms supplied by the administrator, a listing of wage information, including the name of each employee receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter, such employee's Social Security account number and the amount of wages paid to such employee during such calendar quarter.

(B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2026, any employer subject to this chapter may include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the following data for each employee receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter: (i) Such employee's occupation, (ii) such employee's hours worked, and (iii) the zip code of such employee's primary worksite.

Current Session 2025 <u>HB 6865</u>: An Act Implementing the Governor's Recommendations for General Government (Section 11) contains repeal of these expanded wage reporting provisions.

				FY 2025						FY 2026					FY 2027					
Department	Туре	Title	Start Date	Salary	Fringe	ссон	Total Cost	Start Date	End Date	FTE	Salary	Fringe	ссон	Total Cost	Start Date	FTE	Salary	Fringe	ссон	Total Cost
Research	New	ResearchAnalyst	1/1/2025	46,351.92	35,765.14	2,739.40	84,856.47	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	1.00	93,862.64	72,424.42	5,547.28	171,834.34	7/1/2026	2.00	192,418.42	148,470.05	11,371.93	352,260.40
	Existing	ResearchAnalystSupervisor		-	-	-	-				-	-	-	-	7/1/2026	0.50	58,667.18	45,267.60	3,467.23	107,402.01
Tax	New	RevenueExaminer1		-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	7/1/2026	1.00	87,142.30	67,239.00	5,150.11	159,531.41
	New	RevenueExaminer2		-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	7/1/2026	1.00	97,914.59	75,550.89	5,786.75	179,252.23
	Existing	RevenueExaminer2	1/1/2025	46,419.72	35,817.45	2,743.41	84,980.58	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	1.00	93,999.93	72,530.35	5,555.40	172,085.67			-	-	-	-
	Existing	RevenueExaminer2		-	-	-	-	10/1/2025	3/31/2026	0.11	10,712.24	8,265.57	633.09	19,610.90						
	Existing	RevenueExaminer3		-	-	-	-	10/1/2025	3/31/2026	0.11	13,590.07	10,486.09	803.17	24,879.33			-	-	-	-
		Grand Total		92,771.64	71,582.60	5,482.80	169,837.04				212,164.88	163,706.42	12,538.94	388,410.25			436,142.49	336,527.54	25,776.02	798,446.05

	Fiscal Note		
Position Title	Timeframe	State Fiscal Year	State Fiscal Year Cost
Research Analyst	1/1/2025 Thru Permanent	2025	84,856.47
Revenue Examiner 2	01/01/25 thru 06/30/2025	2025	84,980.58
Revenue Examiner 2	07/01/2025 thru 06/30/2026	2026	172,085.67
Research Analyst	Permanent	2026	171,834.34
Revenue Examiner 3	10/01/2025 thru 03/31/2026	2026	24,879.33
Revenue Examiner 2	10/01/2025 thru 03/31/2026	2026	19,610.90
Revenue Examiner 2	7/1/2026	2027	179,252.23
Revenue Examiner 1	7/1/2026	2027	159,531.41
Research Analyst Supervisor	7/1/2026	2027	107,402.01
Research Analyst	Permanent	2027	352,260.40
FY 2025 Total	169.837.04		
FY 2026 Total	388,410.25		
FY 2027 Total	798,446.05		
Grand Total	1,356,693,34		

# Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

### **Representative Lucy Dathan**

Please provide status of UI Trust Fund.

Mo	nthly Cash	flow with e	emphasis c	on Novemb	er 9 Due Da	ate	Unemploy	yment Insurance	<b>Trust Fund Cash F</b>	low Estimates throug	h SFY 27.				
2/24/25	<u>TF</u>	Revenues Refunds	Revenues	<u>Monthly</u> Expendit ures	<u>Quaterly</u> Expendit <u>ures</u>	Weekly Benefit Paid Projectio									
	<u>Balance</u>	(SUTA)	<u>(FUTA+)</u>	(Benefits)	(Benefits)	ns			Interest Paid	Revenue FUTA Credit	Interest Rate	ARPA Balance from	\$30,000,000.00		
Feb 2025	(88.10)			(16.00)		(16.00)		2021	\$1,085,913.26	ò			CRF Funds		
Mar 2025	(104.10)			(64.00)	(80.00)	(16.00)		2022	\$6,850,000.00			\$23,150,000.00	ARPA Funds		
Apr2025	(168.10)			(67.50)		(13.50)		2023	\$1,200,000.00	30,000,000.00	1.67760%	\$21,950,000.00	ARPA Funds		
May 2025	(235.60)	318.00		(54.00)		(13.50)		Nov '23	\$10,000,000.00			\$11,950,000.00	ARPA To TF 11/23		
Jun 2025	28.40			(54.00)	(175.50)	(13.50)		2024	\$1,510,000.00	0.00	2.61340%	\$10,440,000.00			
Jul 2025	(25.60)			(75.00)		(15.00)		2025	1,572,860.20	0.00	3.12270%	\$8,867,139.80			
Aug 2025	(100.60)	200.00		(60.00)		(15.00)		2026	2,449,560.28		3.50000%	\$6,417,579.52			
Sep 2025	39.40			(69.00)	(204.00)	(15.00)		2027							
Oct 2025	(29.60)			(56.00)		(13.00)		2028							
1-Nov-25	(85.60)			(13.00)		(13.00)									
8-Nov	(98.60)	132.00													
9-Nov	33.40								23,582,420.48	30,000,000.00					
Nov 2025	33.40	4.00		(39.00)		(13.00)									
Dec 2025	(1.60)			(68.00)	(176.00)	(14.00)		\$30M Revenue from FUTA Credit received in 2023 on 2022 wages							
<mark>Jan 2026</mark>	(69.60)			(67.00)		(16.00)			Note:	1x.3%=.3% Since a Lo	an Balance on 11/9	/2022 we received			
Feb 2026	(136.60)	60.00		(64.00)		(16.00)		0	Revenue from FUTA	Credit received in 202	24 on 2023 wages				
Mar 2026	(140.60)			(73.00)		(16.00)			Note:	2x.3%=.6%. No loan	balance 11/9/2023.	No FUTA CREDIT			
Apr2026	(213.60)			(58.50)		(13.50)		0	Revenue from FUTA	A Credit received in 202	25 on 2024 wages				
May 2026	(272.10)	340		(54.00)		(13.50)			Note:	3x.3%=.9% If a loan b	alance on 11/9/202	4 there will be a			
Jun 2026	13.90			(63.00)		(13.50)		??	Revenue from FUTA	Credit received in 202	26 on 2025 wages				
Jul 2026	(49.10)			(66.00)		(15.00)			Note:	4x.3%(1.2%) plus BC	R, calculation by Fee	ds Last recession			
Aug 2026	(115.10)	215		(60.00)		(15.00)		???	Revenue from FUTA	Credit received in 202	27 on 2026 wages				
Sep 2026	39.90			(72.00)		(15.00)			Note:	5x.3%(1.5%) plus BC	R, calculation by Fee	ds Last recession			
Oct 2026	(32.10)			(54.00)		(13.00)									
1-Nov-26	(86.10)			(13.00)		(13.00)									
8-Nov	(99.10)	143													
9-Nov	43.90														
Nov 2026	43.90	4		(39.00)		(13.00)									
Dec 2026	8.90			(70.00)		(14.00)									
Jan 2027	(61.10)			(64.00)		(16.00)									
Feb 2027	(125.10)	65		(64.00)		(16.00)									
Mar 2027	(124.10)			(77.00)		(16.00)									
Apr 2027	(201.10)			(56.00)		(13.50)									
May 2027	(257.10)	362		(54.00)		(13.50)									
Jun 2027	50.90			(65.50)		(13.50)									
Jul 2027	(14.60)			(63.00)		(15.00)									

# Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Cash Flow Estimates through SFY 27.

These projections assume the CT economy remains strong and stable, but do NOT assume the unknown impact of a potential economic downturn nor the impact of Federal Administration policies/actions.

(Spreadsheet Attached as CTDOL Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund estimate 2-24-25 for APP 3-12-25)

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Loan borrowing- balances as of 2/24/25

- Loan balance was zero on Nov 9, 2024, therefore employers do not have a federal UI tax increase in 2025.
- Administered \$11B (\$11,798,250,138) in UI benefits since March 2020
- Trust Fund balance is currently zero- Trust Fund loan balance is \$88M (\$88,137,278)
- CT borrowed \$1.6B (\$1,610,425,032.77) during the pandemic era, expects to continue beyond 2025 (into 2027/28).
- We have repaid \$1.5B (\$1,522,287,755) through quarterly taxes and ARPA allocations and \$30,867,332 in FUTA credit reductions
- Total ARPA = \$195M
  - o \$125M ARPA was deposited into the Trust Fund.
  - \$30M in additional ARPA funds allocated and used to pay interest on the loan for employers from Sept 2022-2026 avoiding special assessments.
  - \$40M was used to reduce employer tax payments to the state (State Unemployment Tax Act SUTA) and offset increases in employer tax payments to the federal government (Federal Unemployment Tax Act- FUTA).

# The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was replaced by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014.

Breakdown state FY25 estimated WIA/WIOA budget. (SFY 26 federal allocation known AFTER session)

Fund	SID	Base Amount	Transaction Amount	
11000	12098	14,427,297.00	14,427,297.00	FY24 Carryforward
11000	12098	35,339,550.00	35,339,550.00	FY25 State Appropriation
11000	12098	103,210.00	103,210.00	Salary Adjustment

#### SFY 25 = 49,870,057.00

WIA/WIOA is federally funded but goes to the State/OPM and is allocated to CTDOL through the budget process.

Per federal law, these funds may be utilized for 3 years by CTDOL (the State Workforce Agency, SWA) and for 2 years by the WDBs. WIA/WIOA 10-yr History

	PY 2015	PY 2016	PY 2017	PY 2018	PY 2019	PY 2020	PY 2021	PY 2022	PY 2023	PY 2024	Total
Federal Appropriations (State Levels):											
WIOA Youth Activities	\$ 9,634,681.00	\$10,313,964.00	\$10,849,939.00	\$10,136,991.00	\$10,709,715.00	\$ 9,768,378.00	\$ 8,846,154.00	\$10,925,731.00	\$ 12,065,981.00	\$10,865,114.00	\$104,116,648.00
WIOA Adult Activities	\$ 8,856,853.00	\$ 9,481,516.00	\$ 9,998,629.00	\$ 9,369,933.00	\$ 9,742,854.00	\$ 8,882,785.00	\$ 8,052,523.00	\$ 9,952,310.00	\$10,953,250.00	\$ 9,862,090.00	\$ 95,152,743.00
WIOA Dislocated Worker Activities	\$13,612,474.00	\$14,353,697.00	\$15,909,908.00	\$14,663,263.00	\$14,161,792.00	\$ 13,611,948.00	\$ 12,337,604.00	\$13,434,048.00	\$12,320,319.00	\$11,806,402.00	\$136,211,455.00
Total Federal WIOA Appropriation	\$ 32,104,008.00	\$ 34,149,177.00	\$ 36,758,476.00	\$ 34,170,187.00	\$ 34,614,361.00	\$32,263,111.00	\$ 29,236,281.00	\$ 34,312,089.00	\$ 35,339,550.00	\$ 32,533,606.00	\$335,480,846.00

Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

Representative Lucy Dathan

### Please provide analytics/metrics for all American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Youth Grants/Platform 2 Employment (P2E).

**Grants designated for CTDOL to administer to other organizations** - SFY 24 is the most recently completed program year, so the summary of activity is based on those awards, unless otherwise indicated:

# Long Term Unemployed (LTU) (also known as Platform to Employment- P2E)

Workforce programs to support the unemployed, veterans, youth, and those leaving incarceration.

- Subrecipient: The WorkPlace
- SFY 24 Amount Expended: \$3,778,033.85
- 694 Served (Cumulative across 4 programs funded under this line item)
- 362 Entered Employment (Cumulative)
  - o Numbers By Subprograms:
    - P2E (Regular + Vets) 336 served, 201 employed
    - P2E Reentry- 257 served, 144 employed
    - Military to Machinists 0 served, 0 employed
    - Building Better Futures CT (Youth Program) 90 served, 17 employed
- Lapsed \$611,684.15
  - The WorkPlace has been attempting to expand outreach, and we have provided contract budget flexibility to support the sub-programs more efficiently (faster access to funding to support more popular programs like Re-Entry).

# ARPA funded Platform to Employment- Youth (P2E Youth SFY 25)

Serves disconnected youth ages 18-24 by providing career exploration through real-world simulations, skill-building workshops, and employer engagement. Participants develop soft skills of communication, problem-solving, and teamwork which help in long-term employment. The program includes in-person training, mock interviews, and paid work placements.

- Subrecipient: The WorkPlace
- Identified as ARPA for LTU in state budget
- ARPA Funded program: \$500,000 contract 7/1/24-6/30/25 (still active)
- Served 28 youth thus far in SFY 25

# Building Better Futures (see above for SFY 24)

Serves youth ages 16-24 who are at risk of disconnection. All participants receive training and supports as the program seeks to have a holistic approach across centralized staff to avoid youth 'falling through the cracks'.

- Subrecipient: The WorkPlace
- Funded by both State dollars in the **Long Term Unemployed** line item as well as unique ARPA dollars (labeled "Youthbuild" in state budget)

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

- SFY 23 present ARPA funded program:
  - \$1,500,000 contract 7/1/22- 6/30/25 (still active)
  - served 120 youth thus far
- SFY 25- State funded program:
  - \$750,000 within LTU contact 7/1/24-6/30/25 (still active)
  - served 38 youth thus far

### SFY 24 Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI)

Manufacturing Training Program to support vacancies at EB and many area employers

- Subrecipient: Eastern Workforce Investment Board
- Amount expended: \$4,407,302.00
- 3651 Served
- 849 Entered Employment
- No lapses in funding.

### SFY 24 Mortgage Crisis

Workforce programs to support those at risk of foreclosure.

- Subrecipient: The WorkPlace
- Amount expended: \$826,856.41
- 51 Served
- 12 Entered Employment
- Lapsed \$90,258.59
  - WorkPlace has been attempting to expand outreach and we have revised contract terms within allowable statute language in attempts to enroll more.
- ARPA: More funds were used to support programming with ARPA and can be provided if needed.

### SFY 24 Workplace Retail

(New Program) Workforce program to support retail employers facing critical shortages of employees and to support employees in upskilling and training for opportunity in the industry.

- Subrecipient: WorkPlace
- Amount expended: \$512,617.23
- 60 Served
- 12 Entered Employment
- Unspent funds carried forward into SFY 25.

### Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

### SFY 24 Second Chance

Workforce program to support those leaving incarceration or justice involved.

- Subrecipient: Capital Workforce Partners
- Amount expended: \$310,418.00
- 281 Served
- 111 Entered Employment
- No lapses in funding.

# SFY 24 Building Trades Training Institute (State Building Trades Council's BTTI)

Introductory training to connect trainees to potential union apprenticeships

- Subrecipient: Building Trades Training Institute (CT State Building Trades Council)
- Amount expended: \$731,511.73
- 145 Served (Cumulative based on subprograms within this)
- 108 Entered Employment (Cumulative)
  - Numbers By Subprograms:
    - Women Can Weld 15 enrolled, 12 employed
    - Applied Math-Mechanical Concepts 77 enrolled, 74 employed
    - Intro to Construction 31 enrolled, 22 employed
    - Multi-craft Core Curriculum (MC3) 22 enrolled, 0 employed\*
      - (\*Cohort timing at play for employment rate all graduated school and 19 were in process of applying at time of our reporting closeout.)

# **Connecticut Department of Labor** Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

Status of ARPA Expend	litures Through January 29	9, 2025							
	Contractor	Participants served	SID		Total Cumulative Obligations	Total Cumulative Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Estimated Completion	Description
ARPA-Reduce State UI Tax			28216	40,000,000.00	-	40,000,000.00	-	Complete	Project Description: To support the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust funds specifically to support the repayment of the principal and interest amount due on advances received. Performance Update as of July 31, 2024: To support the state's Unemployment insurance Trust funds specifically to replenish the Unemployment Trust Fund of the lost revenue from the passage of PA 22-118, which reduced all employers 2023 UI Tax Rates by 0.2%.
ARPA-YouthBuild	The Workplace		28219	1,500,000.00	1,133,106.41	366,893.59	-	6/30/2025	Project Description: YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.
ARPA-Cradle to Career Bridgepo	UNITED WAY OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY & UNITED WAY OF COASTAL AND WESTERN CT		28220	150,000.00	-	150,000.00	-	Complete	The ARPA grant shall be utilized to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, providing assistance to populations facing negative economic impacts of COVID-19 including training and education providers, small businesses and nonprofits. ARPA allows states to implement strategies to support workforce-related responses to the pandemic, particularly for workforce development, employment, education, training, and support services. The goal of this contract is to serve the Greater Bridgeport population impacted by the public health emergency.
ARPA-Build With Our Hands	Build with our Hands		28330	500,000.00	484,481.12	15,518.88	-		Project Description: Built With Our Hands provides a pathway to successfully achieving meaningful employment and financial independence by eliminating the barriers to entry disproportionately impacting underserved youth.
ARPA-Temporary UI Staff			28332	2,500,000.00	-	2,498,399.41	1,600.59	3/31/2025	
ARPA-Youth Employment	all 5 WDBs		28333	500,000.00	247,967.48	252,032.52	-	6/30/2025	Project Description: Provide funding of \$500,000 in FY24 only for youth employment through the regional Workforce Development Boards.
ARPA-Employment Platform	The Workplace		28476	500,000.00	440,255.17	59,744.83	-	6/30/2025	'Platform to Employment YOUTH' aims to provide valuable internship opportunities for youtl practical experience with hands-on learning experiences, mentorship, and exposure to real-we various industries by partnering with companies across different sectors.
ARPA-Paid Sick			28477	150,000.00	-	-	150,000.00	9/30/2026	3

# Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

ARPA-New Haven Youth at Work	City of New Haven		28508	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-	-	9/30/2024	The program will fund in-school youth, ages 14-21, who are New Haven residents and/or attend a New Haven Public School and have experienced the impact of covid-19. The program will proved young people with year-round and summer workplace exposure, mentoring, school and community- based enrichment activities. Early work experiences will serve as the foundation for future success of young people in the workplace.
	Comunidades Sin Frontera, CT Worker Center, Naugatuck Valley Project	NVP served at least 30 participants each Workshop. This year NVP is planning on holding 5 to 6 Different Workshops. CWC educated 218 Workers & Employers in 2023; assisted 121 workers with wage theft cases; educated/trained 271 workers and 29 employers on their labor rights & responsibilities in 2024. CSF)- Executive Director, Carmen Lanche reported that 301 Domestic Workers attended the Domestic Worker Education and Training Program's "Know Your Rights Training"	29757	400,000.00	224,349.46	175,650.54		6/30/2025	workers. To provide technical and legal assistance to domestic workers and employers through legal service providers.
ARPA-Opp LT Unemployed	The Workplace	511 enrolled	29759	1,500,000.00	-	1,500,000.00	-	Complete	Project Description: The Opportunities for Long Term Unemployed Program also known as the Platform to Employment Program (P2E). P2E is a five-week preparatory program for job seekers which includes skills assessments, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs and more. Career coaches work with participants to leverage their professional experience and to develop effective job search strategies. Upon completion, P2E helps participants find open positions at local companies and offers a trial work experience.
ARPA-TBICO	TBICO (The Bridge to Independence and Career Opportunities	"Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives" Contract 130 recruits enrolled into the program from the date of contract execution "Wellness and Employment" 172 participants completed the workshop	29760	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	-		Project Description: Nonprofit in Danbury whose mission is to promote personal and economic self-sufficiency through education job training and financial literacy, will provide individuals with employment focused education and training.
ARPA-Boys/Girls Clb Wkfce Dev	Boys and Girts Qub of Milford	46 enrolled	29761	100,000.00	-	99,999.16	0.84	Complete	Project Description: A youth workforce development initiative will be supported. Through the workforce development program, the Boys Girls Club of Milford's (BGCM) goal is to serve a minimum of 30 youth that are either freshmen or sophomores in high school. Over the next 8 months each program participant will be required to Complete the Curriculum for the BGCA developed Career Launch Programs; Complete the Curriculum for the BGCA developed Money Matter Financial Literacy Program; Participate as active Members in Keystone BGCM's premier youth leadership club; Attend 80 of Mentoring Goal Meetings; and Complete a minimum of 40 hours of iob shadowina.
ARPA-Women's Mentoring Network	Women's Mentoring Network- Strategic Life Skills Workshop	"E to the 4th Power" Contract 38 participants received Chromebooks 111 participants received gift cards "Women's Health and Awareness" Contract 393 participants completed the workshop	29762	10,000.00	-	9,999.92	0.08	Complete	Project Description: Nonprofit that provides career, educational, and personal resources that lead to the economic empowerment of low-income women and their families. Programs and services focus on workforce development, financial literacy and computer digital literacy. Women's Mentoring Network offers workshops and one-on-one assistance to adults. The organization also provides services to students through its First Generation Achievement Program. Students may join the Junior Leadership Team or receive help in our Early Steps Tutoring Program. Project Description. Seniors Job Bank (SJB) connects people over 50
ARPA-Senior Jobs Bank	Senior Jobs Bank - West Hartford	38 participants received Chromebooks	29763	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	-		looking for part-time and temporary work with businesses organizations and households seeking workers.

# **Connecticut Department of Labor** Materials for Appropriations' C&D Subcommittee Work Session of March 12, 2025

ARPA-Greater Bpt OIC Job Dev	CTDOL	111 participants received gift cards	29764	350,000.00		350,000.00	-	Complete	Project Description: Funding utilized to provide a community based Hub that will offer a variety of free customized business and leadership development services to existing small businesses. Also aid in a business development strategy for re-opening after mandated closings. Funding to support businesses that were impacted by the pandemic and need assistance with reassessing their models in the new environment.
ARPA-Unemployment Trust Fund	CTDOL		29765	155,000,000.00	-	144,560,000.00	10,440,000.00	9/30/2026	Project Description: To support the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust funds specifically to support the repayment of the principal and interest amount due on advances received.
ARPA-Unemployment Support		"Women's Health and Awareness" Contract	29766	15,000,000.00		11,840,585.12	3,159,414.88	9/30/2025	Project Description: Provide support to increased unemployment program demand at the Department of Labor in excess of what is supported through federal UI funds. Specifically, there has been an increase in claim intake increased demand for the unemployment customer contact center increased adjudication of claims increased need to audit overpayments and appeals.
ARPA-Cust Svs for Mtge Crisis	The Workplace	393 participants completed the workshop	29767	1,100,000.00	147,404.61	952,595.39	-		Project Description: The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Partnership Program will respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency on homeowners by providing the following assistance to homeowners as follows Assessments of eligibility; employment services; employment support services; job training; career coaching; Trainings to address economic hardship; financial literacy and credit counseling; COVID-safety training and job-specific training; Training scholarships for job training; support services including housing-related counseling and other supports as needed.
ARPA MOU Transfers	DECD for OIC of Waterbury \$200k, DECD for Metal Finishing Tech \$800k, CSCU for CDL \$1M		29819	2,000,000.00	625,493.18	1,374,506.82	-	6/30/2025	
Total ARPA				222,330,000.00	4,303,057.43	204,275,926.18	13,751,016.39		

(Spreadsheet Attached "CTDOL ARPA APP C&D")