

Office of Workforce Strategy

FY26 & FY27 Appropriations Workgroup Questions and Answers

(1a) Report on outcomes of the \$70MM Career Connect ARPA and \$5MM bond allocation.

Career ConneCT Training # by sector (Please see deck for more data)

- \$70MM grant program, funded through state ARPA dollars to expire Dec 31, 2026.
- All funds have been obligated and ~74% of grantee funding has been dispersed.
- Short-term, industry-aligned, training and support services to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed, with a goal of training 5,646 individuals for quality jobs in growing industries including advanced manufacturing, IT, healthcare, bioscience, infrastructure, and clean energy
- 19 awards to four workforce boards and 12 community-based organizations
- Includes [Career ConneCT portal](#) as a single entry-point for broad recruitment, data collection and reporting. The portal includes a “skills inventory” (assessment), connection to a career coach, training opportunities and jobs.
- A robust community outreach and recruitment program, the YOU campaign in English and Spanish, was launched to ensure we reach individuals in all areas of the state.

Data from program launch in November 2022 through January 31, 2025 demonstrates Career ConneCT’s strong ROI:

	Goal	Actual	% to Goal
Individuals Trained	5646	6674	118%
Individuals Completed	4861	4475	92%
Individuals Employed	4253	3067	72%

Funding for Career ConneCT will expire for some Grantees as early as June 2025, with the remainder expiring in June 2026.

1b) Report on outcomes of the \$5 MM bond allocation.

Bond Funding: \$5MM in authorized and allocated bond funding ([PA 21-111](#)), initiatives:

- **Adult Education Remediation Pilots (\$1.65 MM)** – Pilot Program contracted with Capital Workforce Partners and Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to address the remediation needs of adults with a high school degree or equivalent and are basic skills defiant. Basic skills remediation is contextualized within tech training programs in Manufacturing, IT, and Healthcare training.
- **AI Skills for Jobs (\$125,000)** – Provides funding for a train-the-trainer model to enable statewide workforce development targeting non-profits and community-based organization to teach basic AI skills to historically underserved communities.
- **Career Accelerator Design (\$300,000)** – As specified in CGS 4-124mm and 4-124nn. Social Finance was awarded the competitively bid contract to lead and collaborate with OWS to design the Career Accelerator Program including focus occupations through a landscape analysis of training opportunities in CDL, Healthcare (LPN), and Manufacturing sectors.
- **Technology Talent Accelerator (TTA) 3.0 (\$2.7 MM)** – Technology Talent Accelerator 3.0, currently in the contracting process, is a 2-year initiative modeled after the best practices of TTA 1.0 & 2.0. Year 1 is focused on identifying specific AI skilling needs and occupations with CT employers, Year 2 will be focused on innovation grants with up to 24 grantees from higher education institutions.
- **Transportation Research Project (\$200,000)** – In collaboration with 2Gen, CTDOL, and CTDOT, we are developing a landscape analysis to understand options with respect to accessing safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options for employment opportunities, childcare, and wrap-around programs.

(2) What is OWS currently receiving in WIOA funding?

For FY 2025, OWS received a WIOA Title I Governor's Reserve allocation of \$550,000. WIOA funds expire 3 years from the date of allocation. Currently, OWS is still utilizing carryforward funds from previous allocations. In FY 2025, WIOA funds are supporting:

- Salary of one full time OWS staff person who serves as the WIOA Program Manager (\$117,193)
- Fringe & benefits for the above WIOA Program Manager (\$113,851)
- Two Fellows (\$50,000/each)
- Contractor who serves as the OWS Senior Policy Advisor (\$105,000)
- Expenditures related to hosting the OWS Annual Workforce Summit and other related convenings/meetings (cost TBD)
- WIOA-related travel (cost TBD)
- Various contractors to support OWS, if necessary. Currently, OWS is contracted with vendors to support website development (\$91,392) and refining the Workforce Strategic Plan (\$49,790)

OWS follows all WIOA acceptable use protocols for expenditures related to this funding.

(3) What initiatives are OWS currently working on, in conjunction with higher ed?

OWS has two primary projects with higher education: CT Health Horizons and Tech Talent Accelerator.

CT Health Horizons

- Administered by CSCU: Launched July 1, 2022, with funds expiring December 2025
- Three-year, \$35M, ARPA-funded initiative to grow and diversify the next generation of nurses and social workers
- Partnerships with 20+ public and private colleges to respond to CT's critical workforce shortage
- Health Horizons is in its third year of programming. Outcomes for year one and two below.

As of January 2025:

- *Tuition Goal:* Incentivize 1,200 low-income and minority students to enter accelerated and cost-effective nursing and social work programs.
Performance: 1,662 scholarships issued over the first two years – 138% over the total goal of 1,200 in just two years

- *Faculty Goal:* Rapidly expand seat capacity by 1,000 students and train the next generation of nurses and social workers.
Performance: 73 new hires expanding both nursing and social work offering statewide; 32 hires are multi-year hires creating continuity in program offerings.
- *Innovative Programming:* 16 innovative programs funded, partnering higher education with business and industry on a range of projects. Examples include:
 - Yale New Haven Health System is partnering with the Southern Connecticut State University's School of Nursing to pilot a part-time BSN evening/weekend program that provides a career ladder to the BSN credential for full-time Patient Care Technicians (PCTs)/Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and other entry level healthcare employees.
 - Fairfield University Health Partners Scholars Program to identify and immerse interested students in clinical education at partnering facilities, including Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), Griffin Hospital and Stamford Hospital.
 - Albertus Magnus College and Griffin Health partnership to design and implement an innovative nursing career pathway and the Connecticut's first Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).
 - Quinnipiac School of Nursing partnership with Hartford HealthCare (HHC) to implement a comprehensive, employer-led program to build a sustainable pipeline into the nursing workforce in Connecticut.

Tech Talent Accelerator

TTA 1.0 & 2.0

- DECD state-bonded, Tech Talent Funds, authorized by [CGS 32-7p](#).
- Contracted to and managed by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) and the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), TTA partnerships have two key objectives:
 1. Developing and implementing short-term (6-12 week) postsecondary credential and certificate programs, providing in-demand skills that are aligned with entry-level, technology-enabled jobs

2. Embedding high-demand IRCs developed by global technology leaders (e.g., Google, Amazon and others) and industry-validated knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) into existing postsecondary credential or degree programs to support graduates' work readiness
- In approximately 2 years TTA 1.0 and 2.0 served
 - 12 higher education institutions
 - 26 industry partners
 - 15 credential pathways
 - 701 enrolled
 - 117 industrial credentials earned
 - 109 internships

TTA 3.0

Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 will focus on AI with funding from OWS Bond dollars