

Annual Report 2025

(pursuant to CGS 4-124w)



Make Workforce Work
for Everyone

Office of Workforce Strategy
March 2025

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Office of Workforce Strategy

- Led by the Chief Workforce Officer, who serves as the Agency Department Head / Commissioner, and is the primary advisor to the Governor on workforce development policy
- Independent, executive branch state agency assigned to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for Administrative Purposes Only (APO), i.e. to provide back-office functions such as fiscal and IT support (C.G.S. § 4-124w)
- Functions as the staff to the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) and is responsible for the development and execution of the state workforce strategic plan through the coordination of workforce development programs and partners across Connecticut

CT State Workforce Strategy Overview

OWS' structured approach drive positives outcomes across multiple programs, policies and partnerships

Mission

Ensure all individuals, regardless of background, have a seamless and supported pathway from education and training to a good job, and that every business has the skilled talent they need to innovate and thrive.

Values:

- **Collaboration:** Workforce Systems Alignment
- **Opportunity:** Remove Barriers to Employment
- **Impact:** Data and Accountability

Strategic Objectives

- **Drive Growth:** Industry Leadership
- **Build Skills:**
 - Sector-Based Training &
 - Education and Career Pathways



OWS Strategic Objectives

Drive Growth: Industry Leadership



Industry-driven workforce system, in which employers are informing curriculum and training and educational credentials, providing work-based learning opportunities, and a committing to making every job a good job.

Primary Vehicle: Regional Sector Partnerships

- **14 RSPs statewide** with 500 participating businesses
- Under way: Healthcare (4); Manufacturing (5); Information Technology (2); Bioscience (1); Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (1); Architecture, Engineering and Construction (1); Clean Energy and Infrastructure (in development)

Build Skills: Sector-Based Training



All individuals have access to, and the supports necessary to participate in, high-quality, short-term training with stackable industry-recognized credentials that lead to in-demand jobs and a bridge to postsecondary attainment.

Primary Vehicles:

- **Career ConneCT:** 6,000 unemployed/underemployed individuals provided with training and supports leading to good jobs
- **Good Jobs Challenge:** 2,000 individuals provided with training, supports and placement into good jobs
- **Career Accelerator:** Zero-interest loans with no-cost supports for individuals who do not qualify for federal and state funds

Build Skills: Education and Career Pathways



All students — regardless of their postsecondary education plans, have access to career pathways aligned to their interests and the needs of Connecticut's industries.

Primary Vehicles:

- **Tech Talent Accelerator:** 12 Business-higher education partnerships developing industry-recognized credentials in in-demand and emerging fields
- **Health Horizons:** 20+ Higher education partnerships to expand and diversify nursing and social work pipelines through scholarships, support for new faculty and innovative programs
- Dual and Concurrent Pathway

OWS' portfolio and impact is substantial

Career ConneCT – *Funded by ARPA*

- \$70MM for skills training and wraparound supports
- Enrolled 6,000+ unemployed or underemployed participants

Good Jobs Challenge – *Federal Grant*

- \$24MM in EDA funds to train 2,000 workers from underserved communities
- Regional partnerships in manufacturing, tech and healthcare

CT Health Horizons – *Funded by ARPA*

- \$35MM to train new nurses & social workers
- 20 higher-ed partnerships

Tech Talent Accelerator – *GO Bond Funds*

- \$2MM to develop industry-recognized credentials
- 12 higher-ed partners; 26 industry partners; 15 tech certificate programs

GO Bond Projects, a \$5MM investment of \$40MM Authorized

- Career Accelerator: \$300,000
- TTA 3.0: \$2.7MM
- AI Curriculum: \$125,000
- Transportation Study: \$200,000
- Adult Basic Education Workforce Integration Pilots: \$1.65MM

Additional Efforts

- Human Services Career Pipeline
- Nursing Report
- Benefits Cliffs
- Data Integration

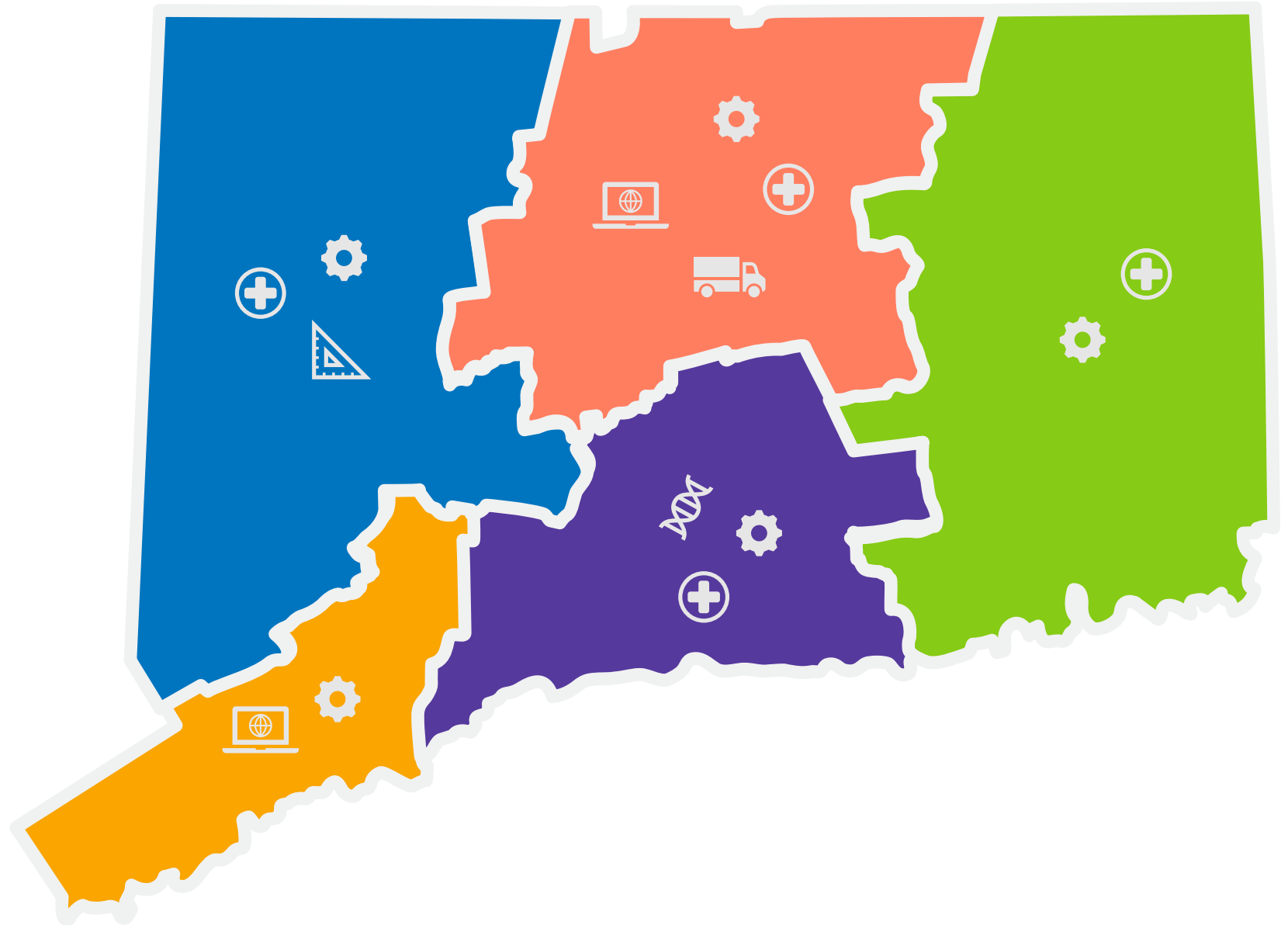


OWS Industry Leadership

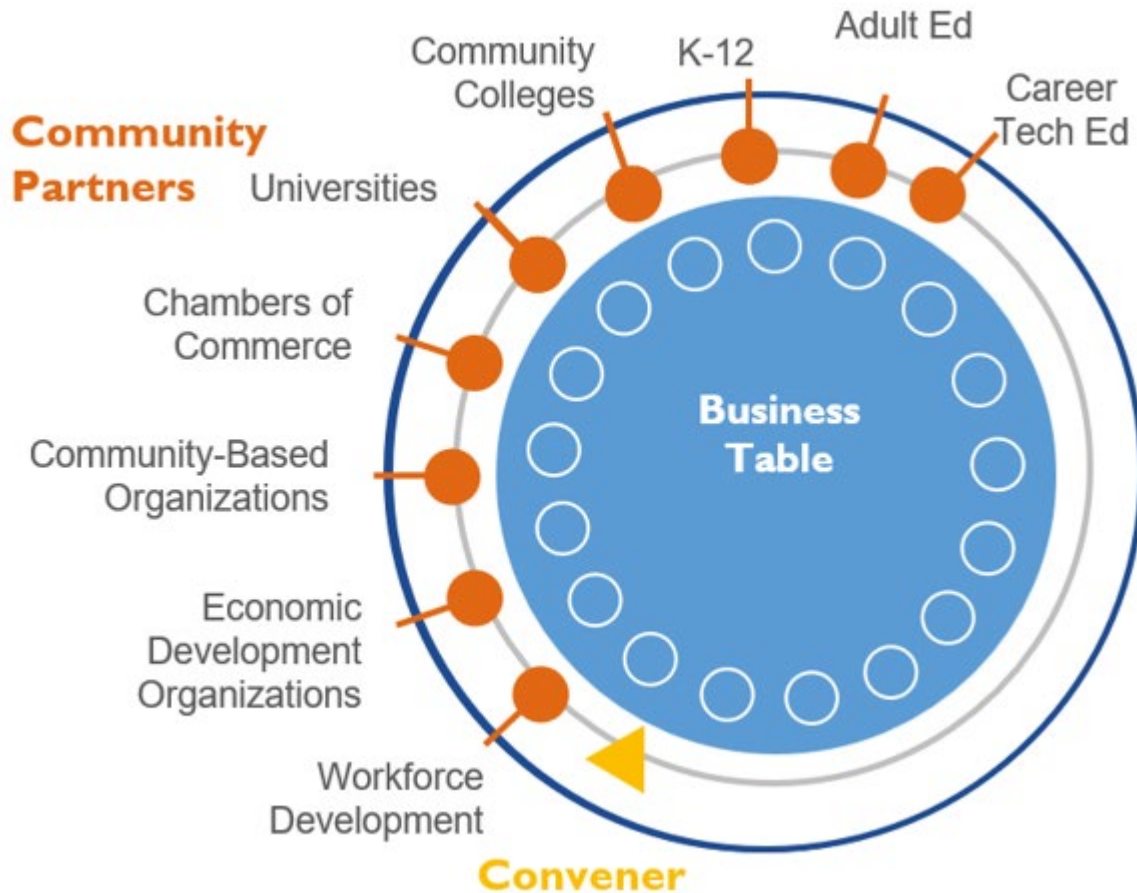
Priorities are identified by industry leaders to inform in-demand programs and participate in the education and employment pathways

14 Regional Sector Partnerships drive industry involvement

-  **Manufacturing**
(All Regions)
-  **Healthcare**
(Northwest, Capital, New Haven, Northeast)
-  **Information Technology**
(Capital and Southwest)
-  **Bioscience**
(New Haven)
-  **Logistics and Transportation**
(Capital)
-  **Construction, Architecture and Engineering**
(Northwest)



Next Generation Sector Partnership



Mobilize business leaders to play an active role in strengthening their regional economies and education and training systems;

- Industry pull vs. program push
- Business leaders serve as shared accountability for the multiple public and private service providers

Align education, workforce and economic development partners around a common, business-led agenda;

- Shared Industry Partnerships, i.e. a shared table, not owned by any single institution or system
- Integrated response from education, workforce and economic development vs. one-off solutions

Connecticut's Vision for RSPs



Business
Focus and
Leadership



Program &
Public
Partner
Collaboration



Sustainable
Economic
Growth



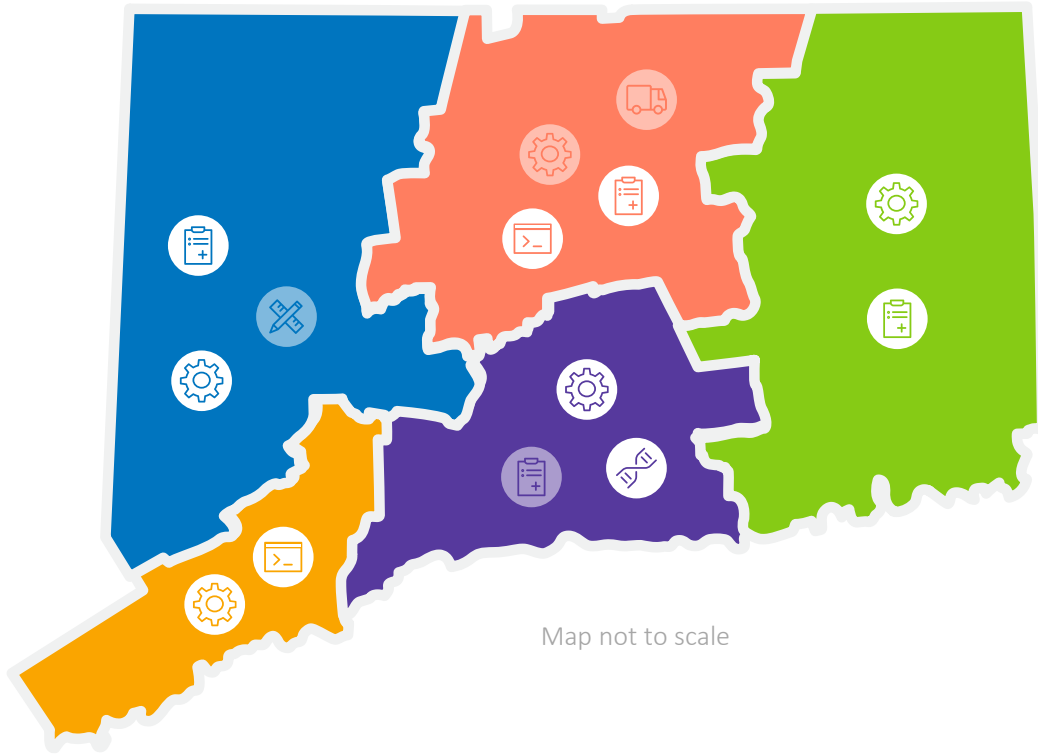
Regional
Leadership and
Autonomy







These happen best at the regional level since that is where the strongest relationships are made. The State has a role in aligning initiatives across systems to ensure targeted support is provided along the way.

Good Jobs Challenge

The largest sector training award in the country of \$23.9MM was granted to the OWS for advancing Connecticut's Regional Sector Partnerships, workforce programming, and supporting Industry Leadership priorities.

CT's Good Jobs Challenge, the nation's largest award from the US EDA, supports RSP talent goals



-  5 Manufacturing (All Regions)
-  1 Bioscience (New Haven)
-  4 Healthcare (Northwest, Capital, New Haven, Northeast)
-  1 Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (Capital)
-  2 Technology (Capital and Southwest)
-  1 Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (Northwest)

Our Goal

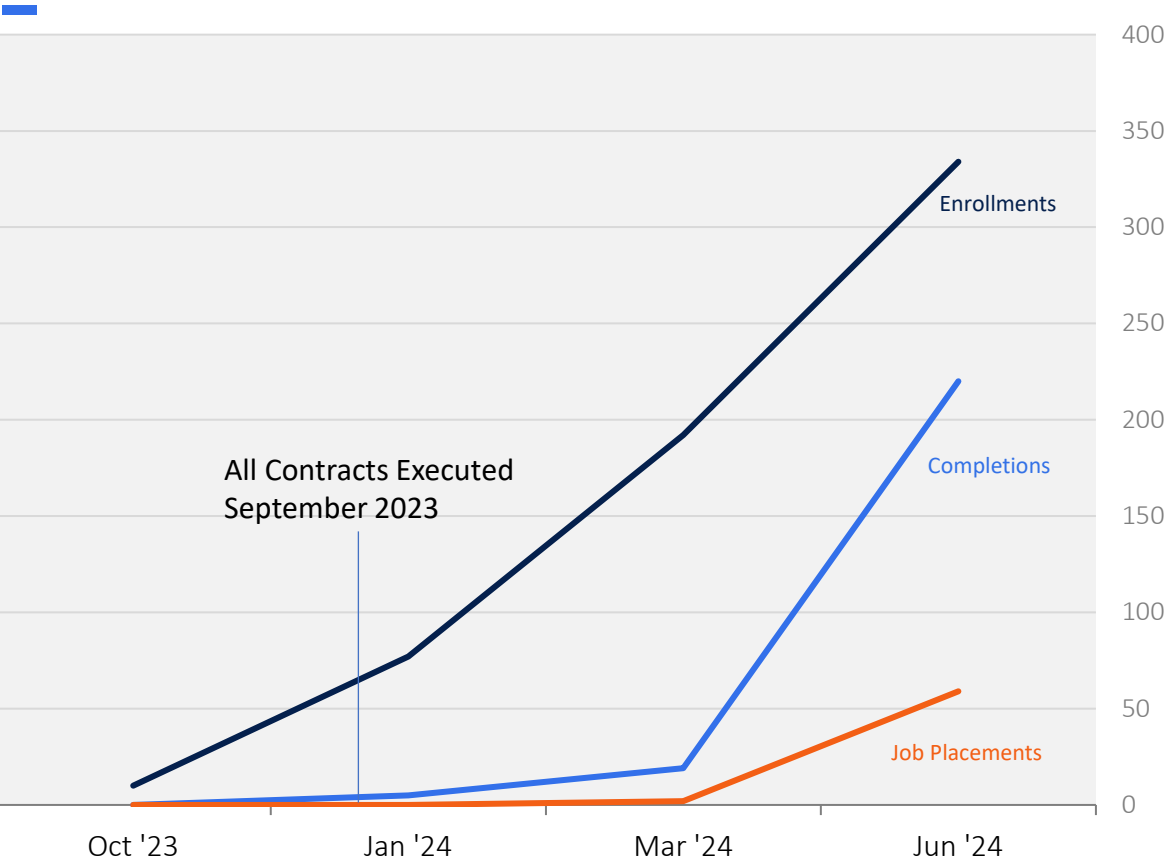
Train and place 2,000 individuals from underserved communities by 6/30/2026

- \$23,930,442 in total EDA funds
- 10 awards to each RSP under way at that time
- Grant Period: 9/21/2022 - 6/30/2026

Connecticut's Good Jobs Challenge progress

Cumulative Good Jobs Challenge Outcomes by Performance Measure

October 2023 to June 2024



Ramp-Up to Rapid Progress

- Enrolled in training: 334 (12%) towards goal of 2,850
- Graduated from training: 220 (9%) towards goal of 2,480
- Placed in jobs: 59 (2%) towards goal of 2,423

Career ConneCT

A \$70MM investment for employer-demand priorities and sectors.

Career ConneCT

Through **\$70MM** ARPA allocation, OWS is on track to:

- Exceed its target of ~**6,000** unemployed and underemployed residents, with a focus on historically marginalized and underserved populations
- **Place more than 2 out of 3 participants** in quality jobs

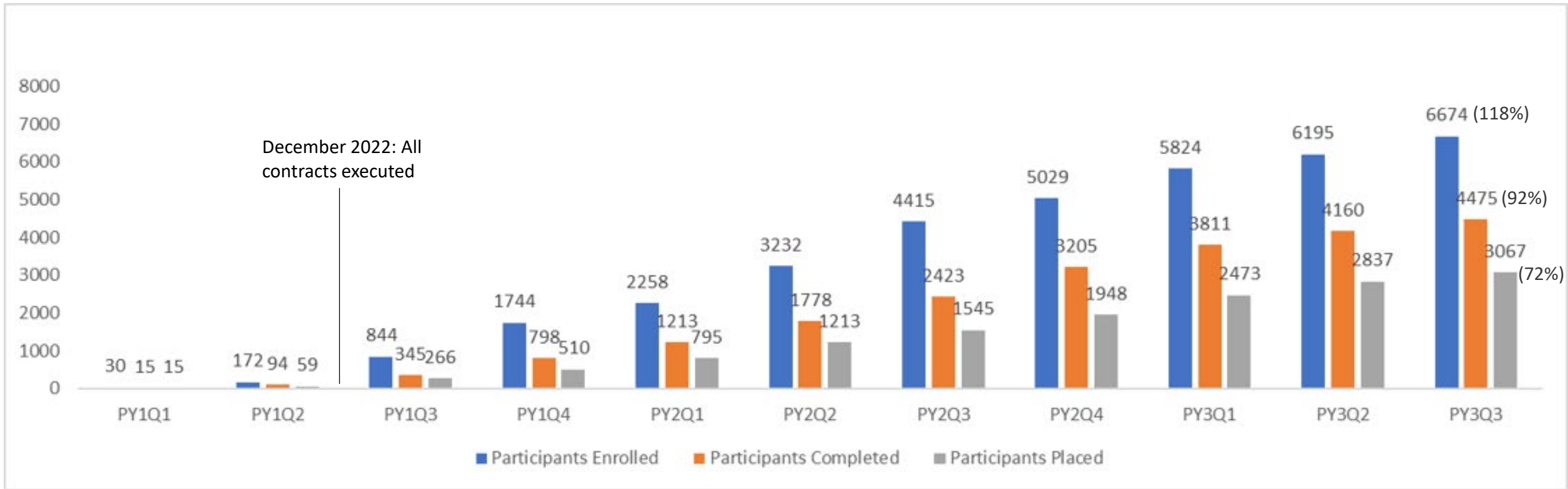
Using Career ConneCT Portal Data:

- OWS estimates another **18,000** residents are seeking short-term, industry recognized training programs leading to jobs



Cumulative Career ConneCT Outcomes

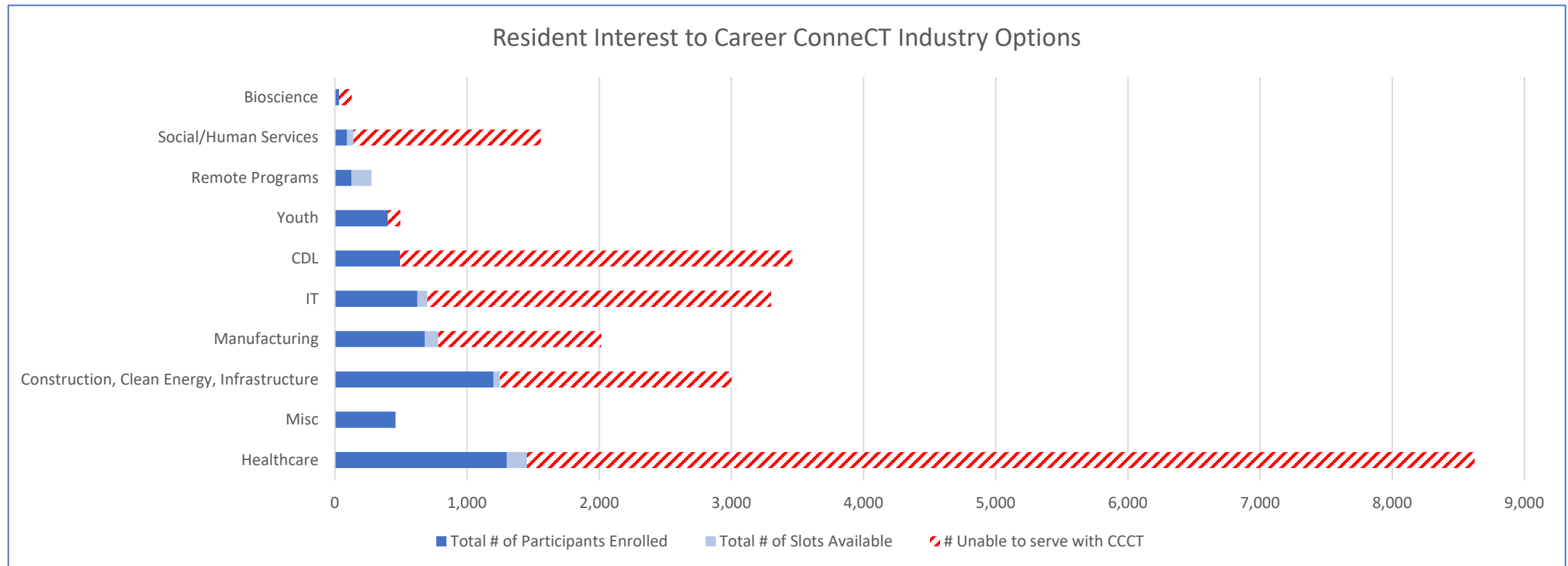
November 2022 through January 31, 2025



1. Data is collected on a quarterly basis, but monthly indicators represent a snapshot of the upcoming reporting quarter
2. Employment is self reported. Wage match data, when available, may increase the employment rate.

Career ConneCT: Demand Driven Model

- At its peak, Career ConneCT enrolled **~650 Residents / Quarter**.
- OWS estimates **~600 slots remain** across just 6 industries
- *Grantees in these industries have met their intended goals, exhausted funds, and have **no slots remaining***



Career ConneCT supports high-quality training programs and certifications

CDL

- Tractor-Trailer and Light Truck Drivers

IT

- MS Office Specialist, Google IT Support, CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, AWS Foundations
- Front-end Development
- CSCU Web Certification, PHP/My SQL, and Java; Google Data Analytics; Google UX Design

Cybersecurity

- Google IT Support; CompTIA A+; CompTIA Network+; CompTIA Security+; Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery; CISSP Certificate
- Network/Cloud Operations
- AWS Foundations; AWS Architect; AWS Operations; AWS Developer; Microsoft Azure Fundamentals
- Software Engineering
- Web Development

Advanced Manufacturing

- Robotics Training: Programming I
- Welder, pipefitter, inside machinist
- Internet of Things and Cybersecurity
- Industrial Sales Training
- Manufacturing math
- Blueprint reading
- Metrology
- Welding
- Drafting
- Machining skills

Bioscience

- Lab Operations
- Compound Management
- Laboratory Animal Husbandry
- Research Support
- Biomanufacturing

Clean Energy / Infrastructure

- Solar Photovoltaic Installers
- Environmental Remediation
- HVAC Technician
- Weatherization
- BPI Building Analyst (BA)
- BPI Envelope Professional (EP)
- BPI Multifamily Building Analyst
- Infiltration and Duct Leakage
- Environmental field technician
- Healthy Home Evaluator (HHE)
- OSHA 10
- OSHA Confined Space
- Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP)

Construction

- Foundational skills training for trade union registered apprenticeship programs
- Construction: Flagger
- Forklift Operator

Human Services

- Personal Care Technician
- Recovery Assistant
- Physical & Psychological Management Certifications
- CPR, First Aid

Healthcare

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Home Health Aide
- Phlebotomist
- EKG Tech
- EMT
- Patient Care Technician
- Certified Med Assistant
- Pharmacy Tech
- Community Health Worker
- Human Services Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Medical Billing & Reimbursement Specialist
- Certified Professional Coder
- CPR/First Aid
- Health Information Management
- American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers

Retail / Hospitality

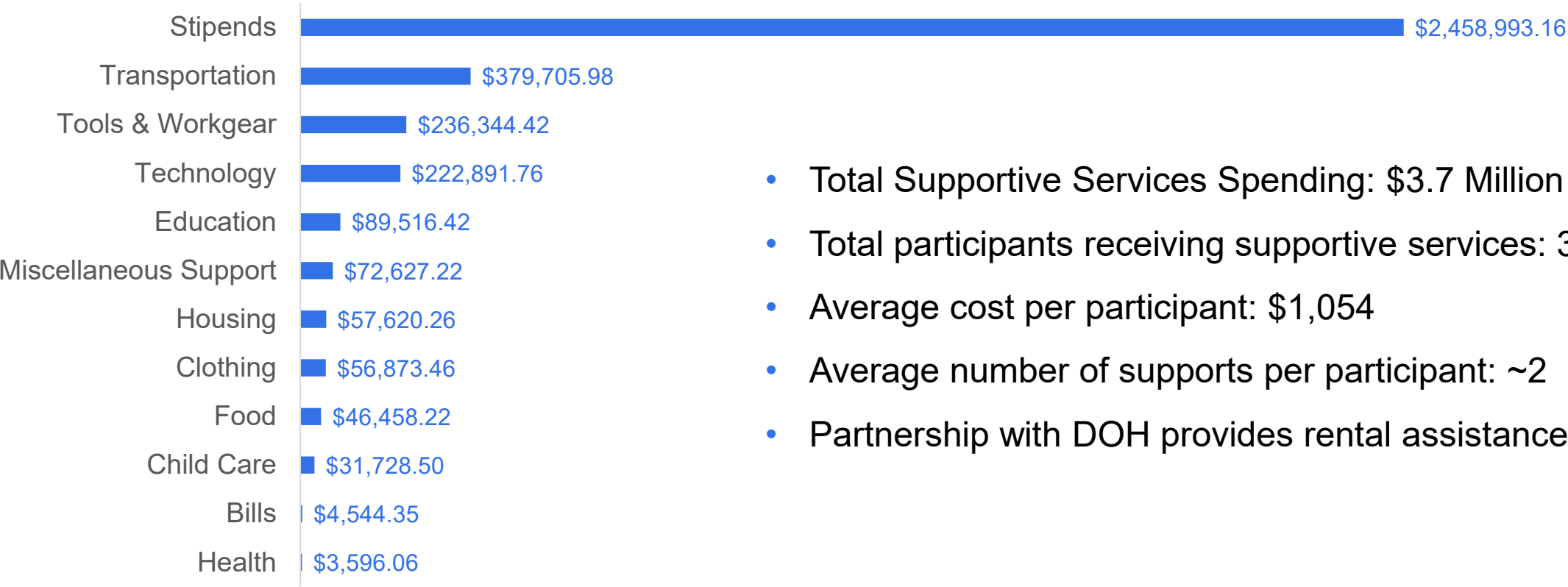
- Customer Service
- Hospitality
- Retail Fundamentals
- Remote customer service
- Database management
- Internal support

Culinary

- Food Handler – ServSafe Food Handler Certification/ Cook, Server

Career ConneCT has provided over \$3.7M in supportive services

Cumulative Career ConneCT Supportive Services Spending by Category
July 2023 to September 2024¹



- Total Supportive Services Spending: \$3.7 Million
- Total participants receiving supportive services: 3,473
- Average cost per participant: \$1,054
- Average number of supports per participant: ~2
- Partnership with DOH provides rental assistance

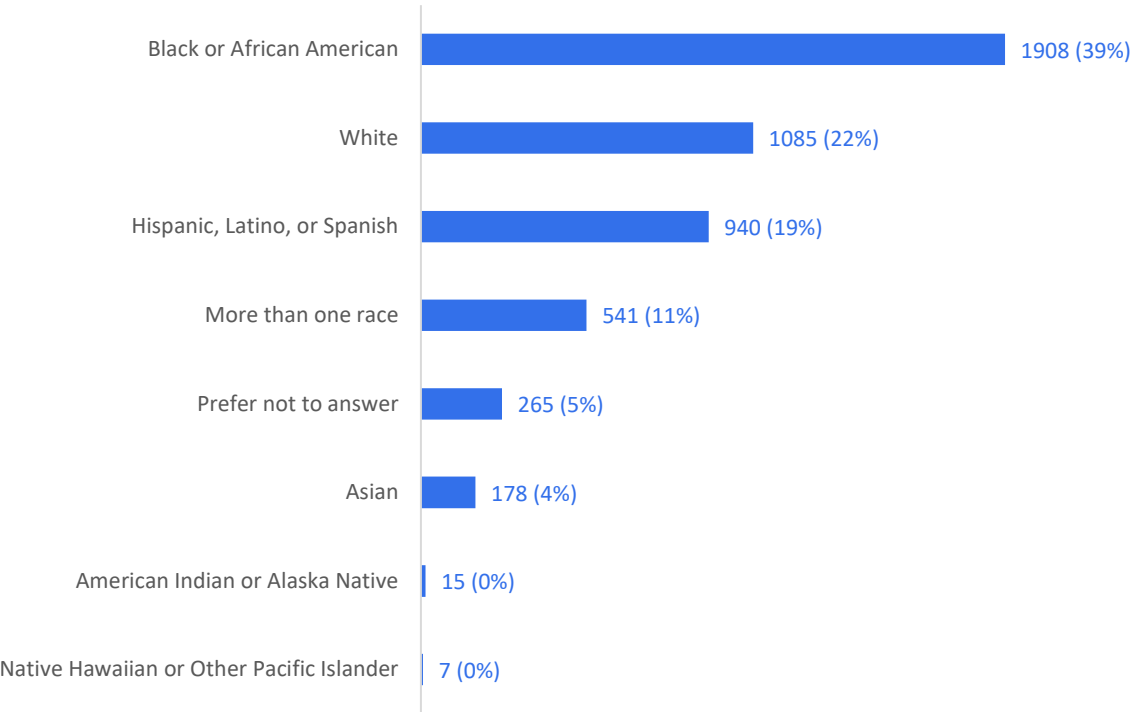
Note
1. Supportive services spending did not start in earnest until July 2023 (PY2 Q1)

Enrolled Participants by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender*

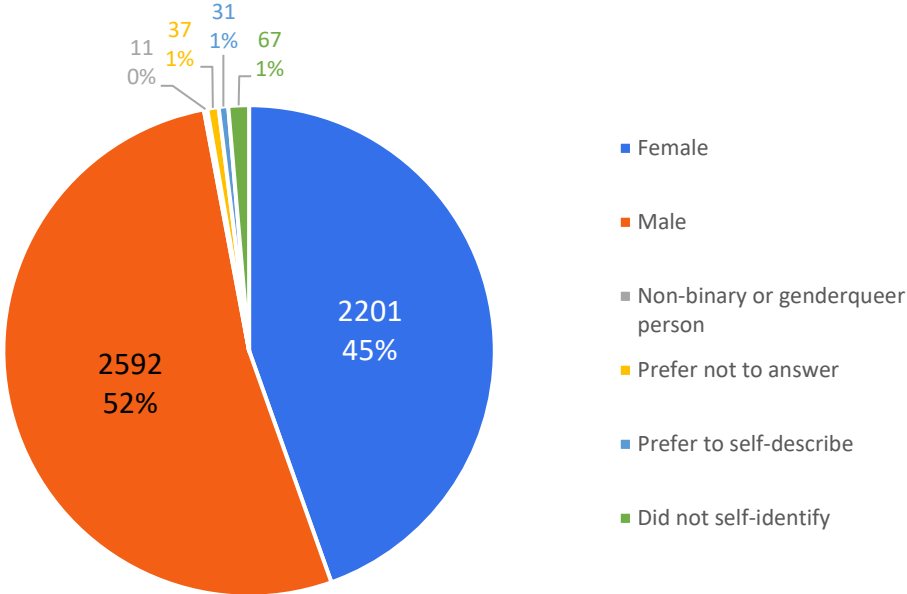
Data collected on a quarterly basis from July 2022 (Project Year 1, Quarter 1) to June 2024 (Project Year 2, Quarter 4)



Race and Ethnicity (n = 4939)

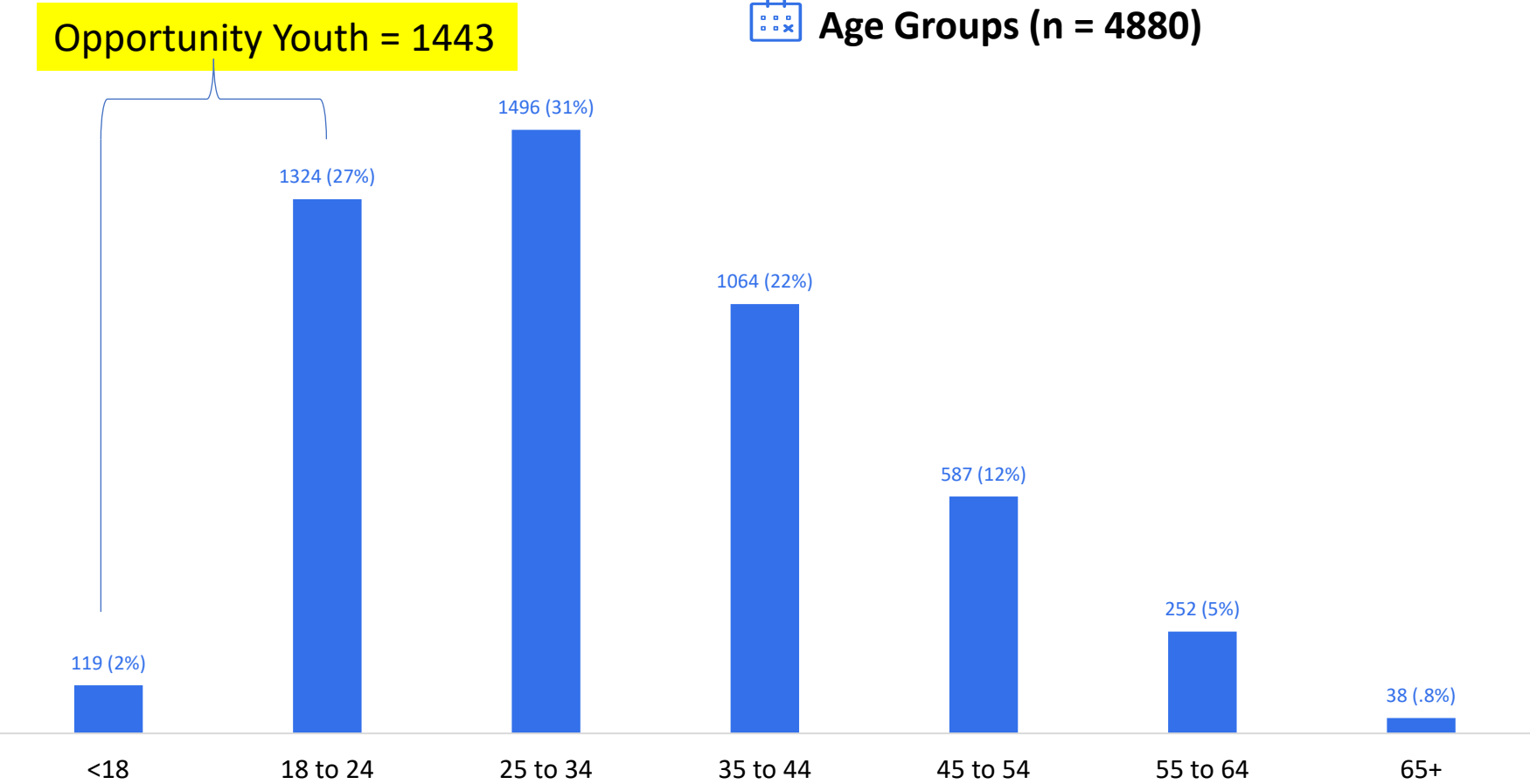


Gender (n = 4939)



Enrolled Participants – Age Groups*

Data collected on a quarterly basis from July 2022 (Project Year 1, Quarter 1) to June 2024 (Project Year 2, Quarter 4)



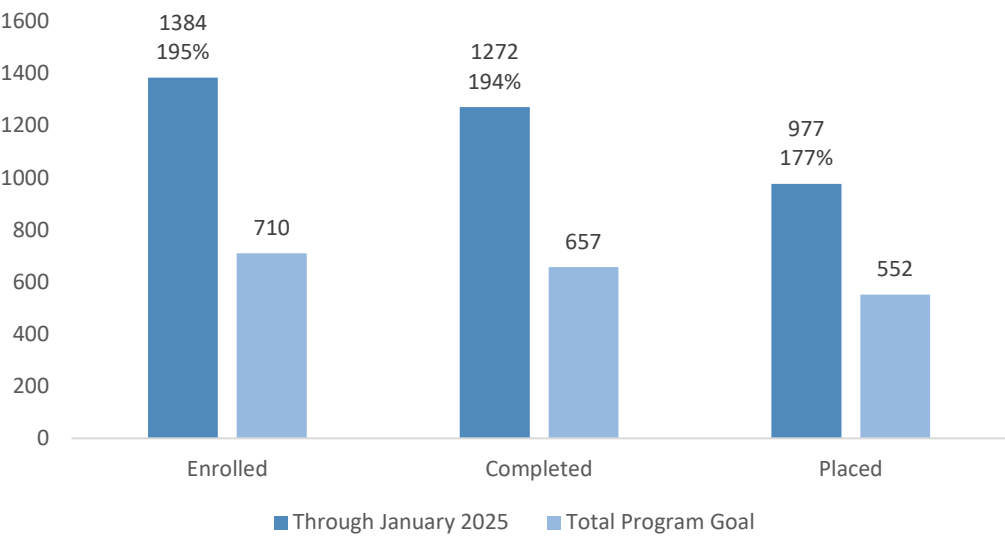
Cumulative Indicators by Industry

Data collected on a monthly basis from July 2022 to February 2025

Grantees:

- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB)
- The CT Building Trades Training Institute
- Efficiency for All

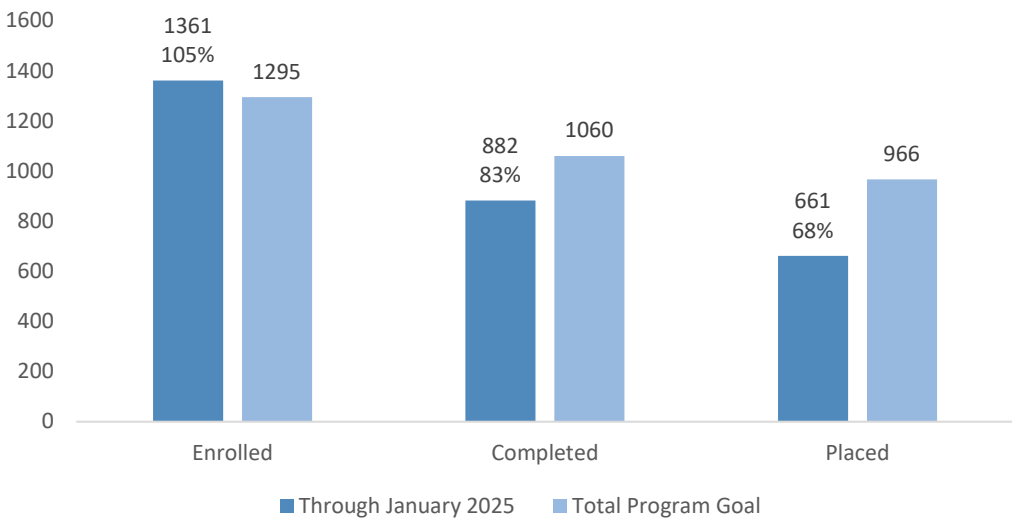
Infrastructure, Clean Energy, Construction



Grantees:

- The WorkPlace, Inc (Award 1 of 2)
- Family Centers, Inc
- Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc.
- Career Resources, Inc. (Award 1 of 2)

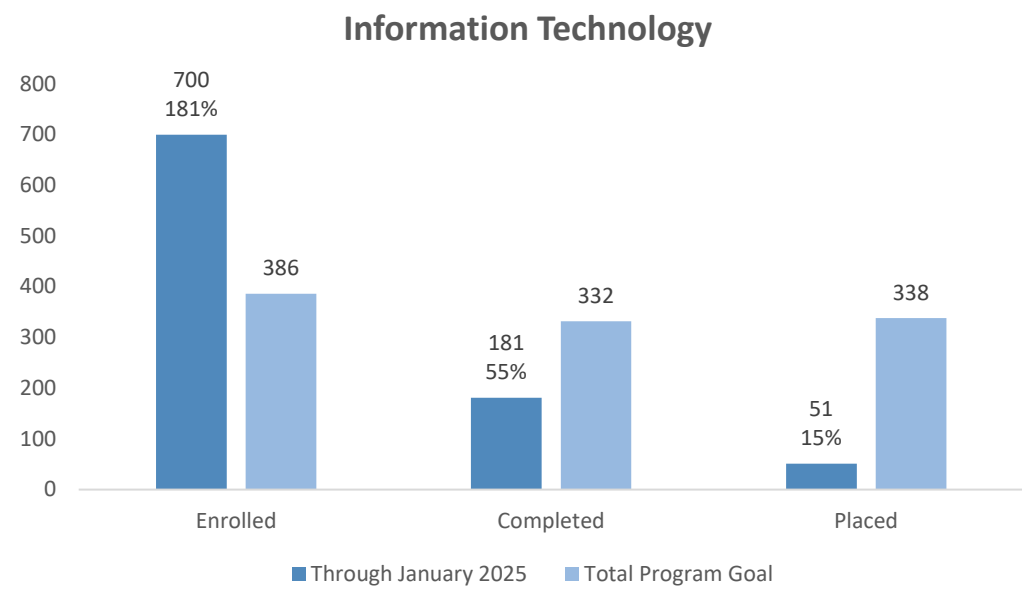
Healthcare



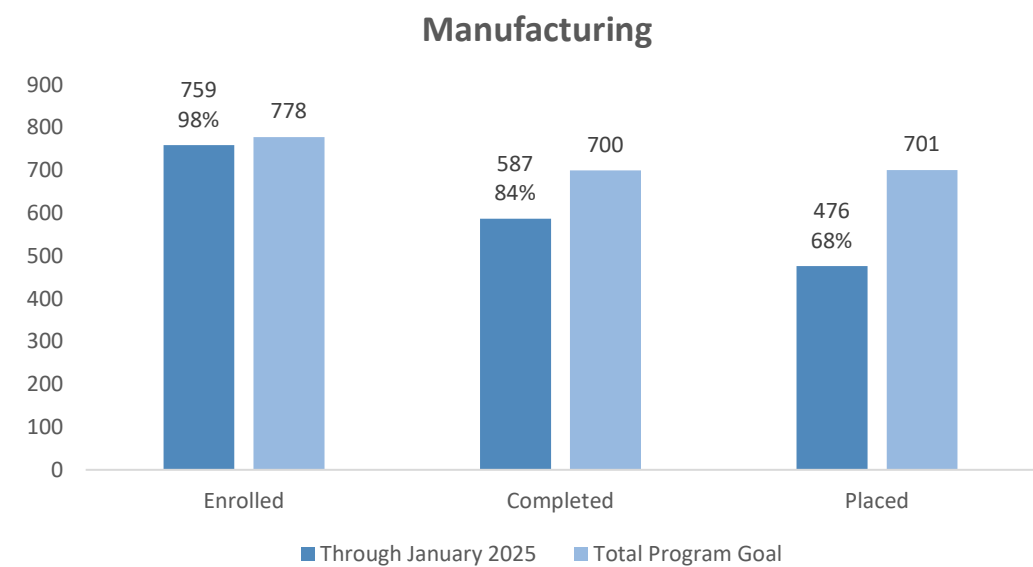
Cumulative Indicators by Industry

Data collected on a monthly basis from July 2022 to February 2025

- Grantees:**
- Capital Workforce Partners (Award 1 of 2)
 - District Arts and Education, Inc



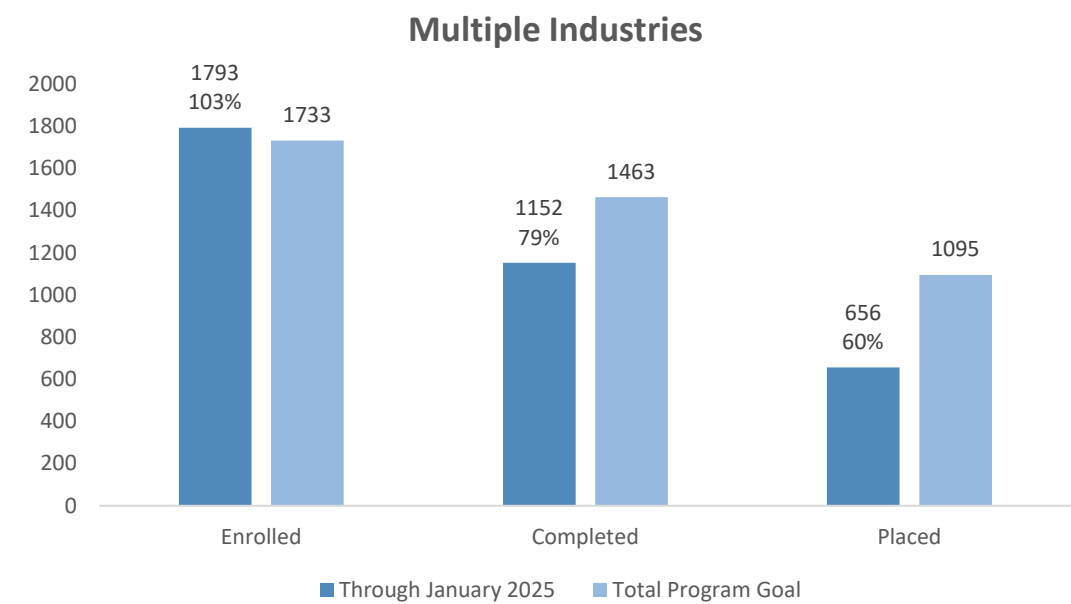
- Grantees:**
- Eastern Workforce Investment Board (EWIB)
 - Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)



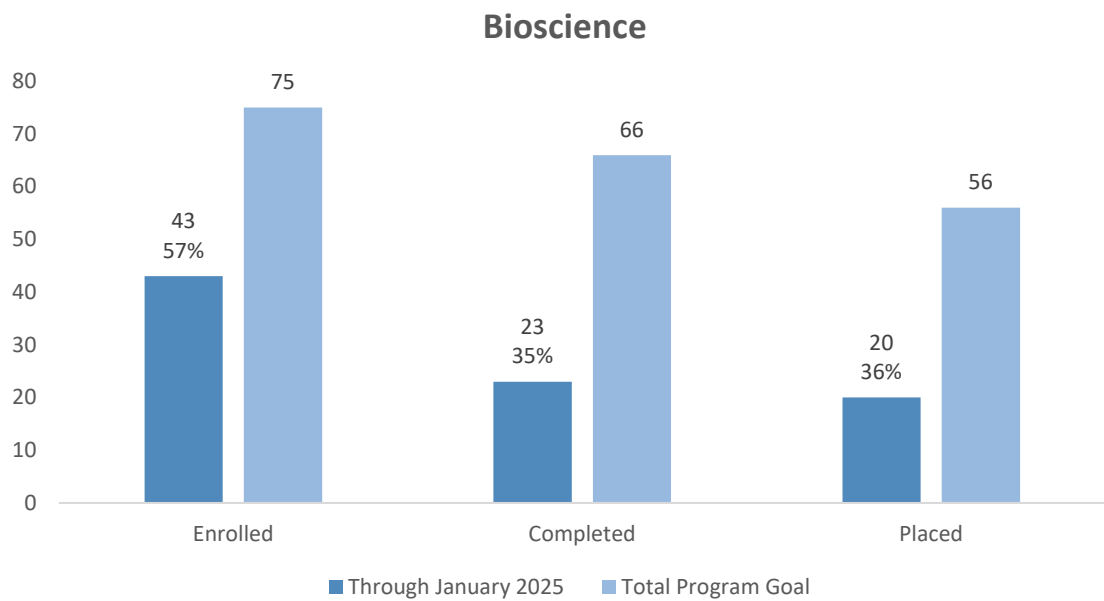
Cumulative Indicators by Industry

Data collected on a monthly basis from July 2022 to February 2025

- Grantees:**
- ReadyCT
 - Career Resources, Inc. (Award 2 of 2)
 - The WorkPlace, Inc. (Award 2 of 2)
 - Havenly, Inc.
 - Ability Beyond Disability, Inc.



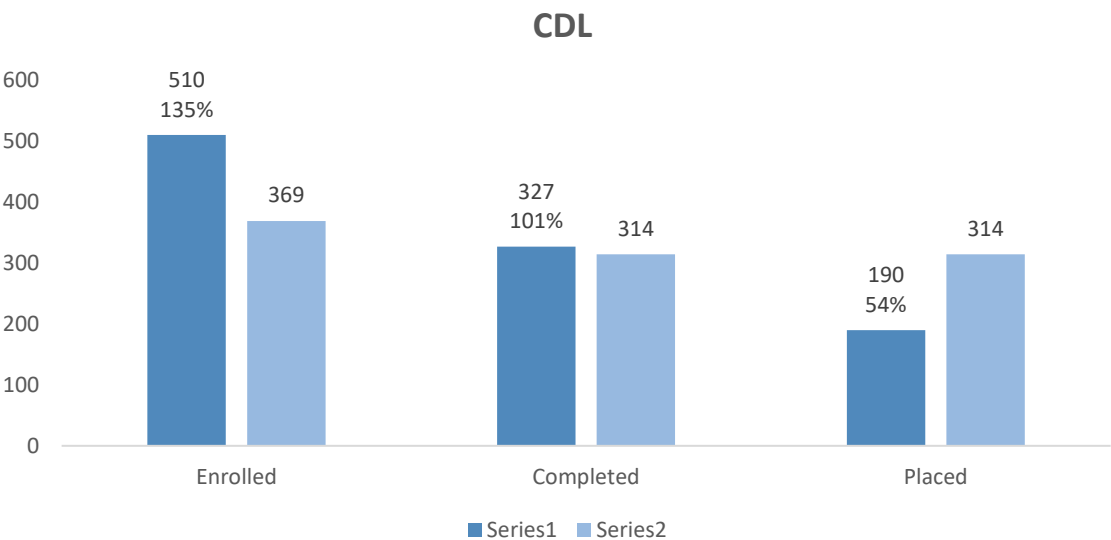
- Grantee:**
- Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology (ConnCAT)



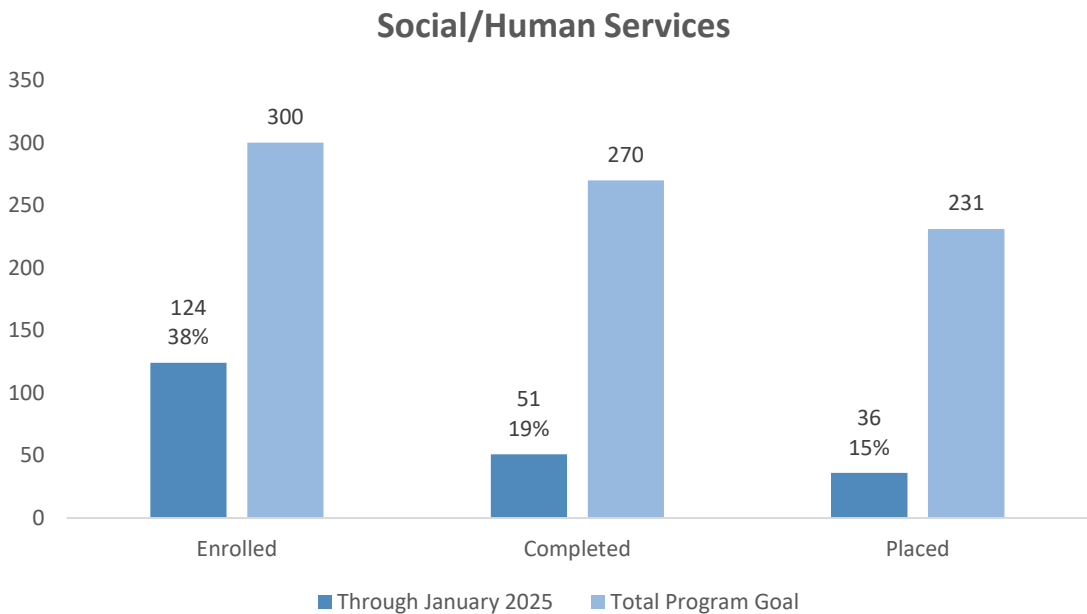
Cumulative Indicators by Industry

Data collected on a monthly basis from July 2022 to February 2025

Grantee: • Capital Workforce Partners (Award 2 of 2)



Grantee: • Marrakech, Inc.



Additional Major State Initiatives & Priorities

Portfolio includes pilot programs, policy research, and dynamic partnerships that require ongoing funding to enable sustained impact and innovation

CT Health Horizons

- Launch 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 by:
- Health Horizons is in its third year of programming. Please find outcomes for year one and two below.



Tuition Support

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 Support

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.



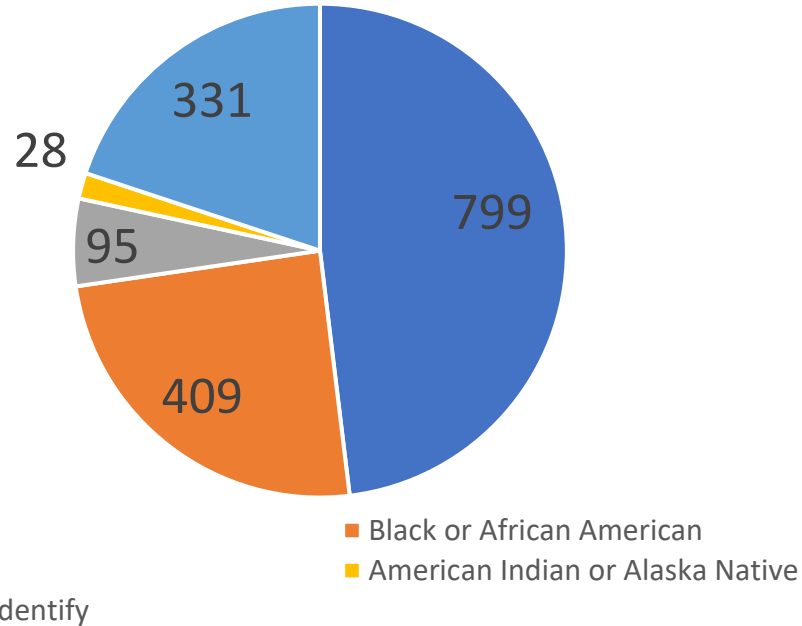
Innovative Programs

Goal: Promote partnerships between healthcare employers and institutes of higher education to support entrance into careers in nursing and social work.

Performance: 10 nursing and six social work innovative programs partnering with high schools, businesses and hospitals advancing access and partnerships

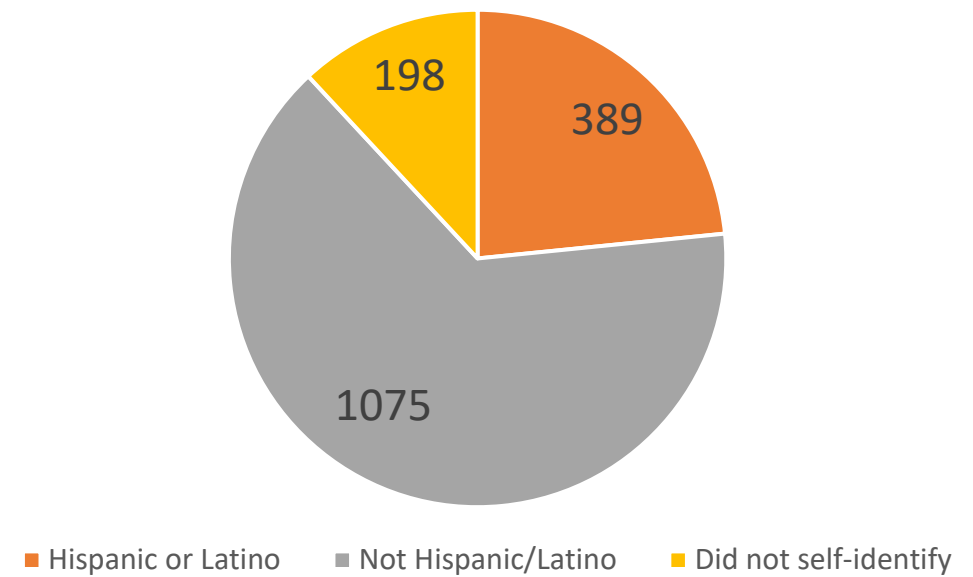
CT Health Horizons scholarships are diversifying the nursing and social work workforces

Scholarships by Race



25% of all health horizons scholarships have been issued to Black/ African American students

Scholarship by Ethnicity



24% of all health horizons scholarships were issued to Hispanic/Latino students

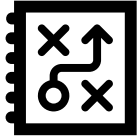
Scholarship Issuance –Year-to-Date

Program of Study	Yr 1	Yr 2	Grand Total
Accelerated Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN)	285	333	618
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	159	351	510
Master of Social Work (MSW)	106	309	415
MSN Adv Prac: Psy Mental Health	5		5
Post-Graduate Certificate in (PMHNP)	4	11	15
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)	32	67	99
Grand Total	591	1071	1662

65% of institutions are fully obligated with year three scholarships. With additional funding we could serve more eligible students!

32% of all scholarships have been issued to Pell eligible students.

Innovative Programming: Creating and Expanding Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Pathways



The Situation

Access to qualified Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) training has been impacted statewide.



The Problem

The largest LPN provider shutter its doors leaving a large gap in the States capacity to train LPN's



The Intervention

University of Saint Joseph (West Hartford), Albertus Magnus (New Haven) and Mitchell (New London) received funding through CT Health Horizons to stand-up or add LPN offerings.



The Implementation

University of Saint Joseph (West Hartford) and Albertus Magnus (New Haven) have added a total of 30 additional LPN seats. Mitchell (New London) has funding to add a full-time instructor to stand up an LPN-to-RN initiative



The Result

Meeting employers' needs, Health horizons has begun to address the needs of LPN training. Additionally, these programs are connected to LPN to RN programs which create a seamless integration of systems.

Tech Talent Accelerator: Business/higher education partnerships in emerging, high-demand tech skills



DECD state-bonded, Tech Talent Funds, authorized by [CGS 32-7p.](#)

Managed by the New England Board of Higher Education and the Business-Higher Education Forum, TTA partnerships are:

- **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
- **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

Tech Talent Accelerator 1.0

- University of Bridgeport
- University of New Haven
- University of St. Joseph
- University of Hartford
- Mitchell College
- Quinnipiac University
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)

TTA 3.0
Focus on AI
Launching Spring 2025

Tech Talent Accelerator 2.0

- UConn-Stamford
- Fairfield University
- Connecticut College
- Southern CT State Univ.
- Charter Oak State College
- Albertus Magnus
- *Booster Grants:* University of Bridgeport, University of New Haven, University of St. Joseph, University of Hartford, Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University

TTA 1.0 Programs

Institution	Area of Focus	Industry Champions
Mitchell College	Professional technology skills	<u>INsrcD</u>
Quinnipiac University	Cybersecurity for Healthcare	Vancord, Kyber Security, Fortify Security, IGT Gaming, Yale New Haven Hospital, Cornell-Scott Hill Medical, Help at Home, Clearwater Compliance, Cornell Weill Medical Center, ISC2 CT Industry Group
University of Bridgeport	Cybersecurity	CGD LLC., CYPROTECK Inc., Pitney Bowes
University of Hartford	Mobile App Development	Infosys
University of New Haven	Game Design & Development	SphereGen, Arsome Technology Group, and Pleiadian Systems Corporation
University of Saint Joseph	Data Analytics & Business Intelligence	CGI

TTA 2.0 Grantee Enrollment To Date

Institution	Area of Focus	Industry Champions
Albertus Magnus College	Applied Data Science for Bioinformatics	Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Charter Oak State College	Cybersecurity	Travelers
Connecticut College	Information Technology	Accenture
Fairfield University	Cybersecurity	Vancord
Southern Connecticut State University	Cloud Computing	Ancera
University of Connecticut - Stamford	Cloud Computing	Synchrony Financial, Pitney Bowes

Tech Talent Accelerator by the numbers

as of Dec 31, 2024



Higher Education
Institutions



Industry
Partners



Pathways and Credentials
in Development



Total Enrollment*



Industry Recognized Credentials
Earned



Internships Facilitated

*Additional learners will benefit each semester.
Learners may be duplicated in the total count.

Career Accelerator *(as required by legislation, PA 22-118, revised PA 23-75)*

\$300,000 Bond Funding

Concept:

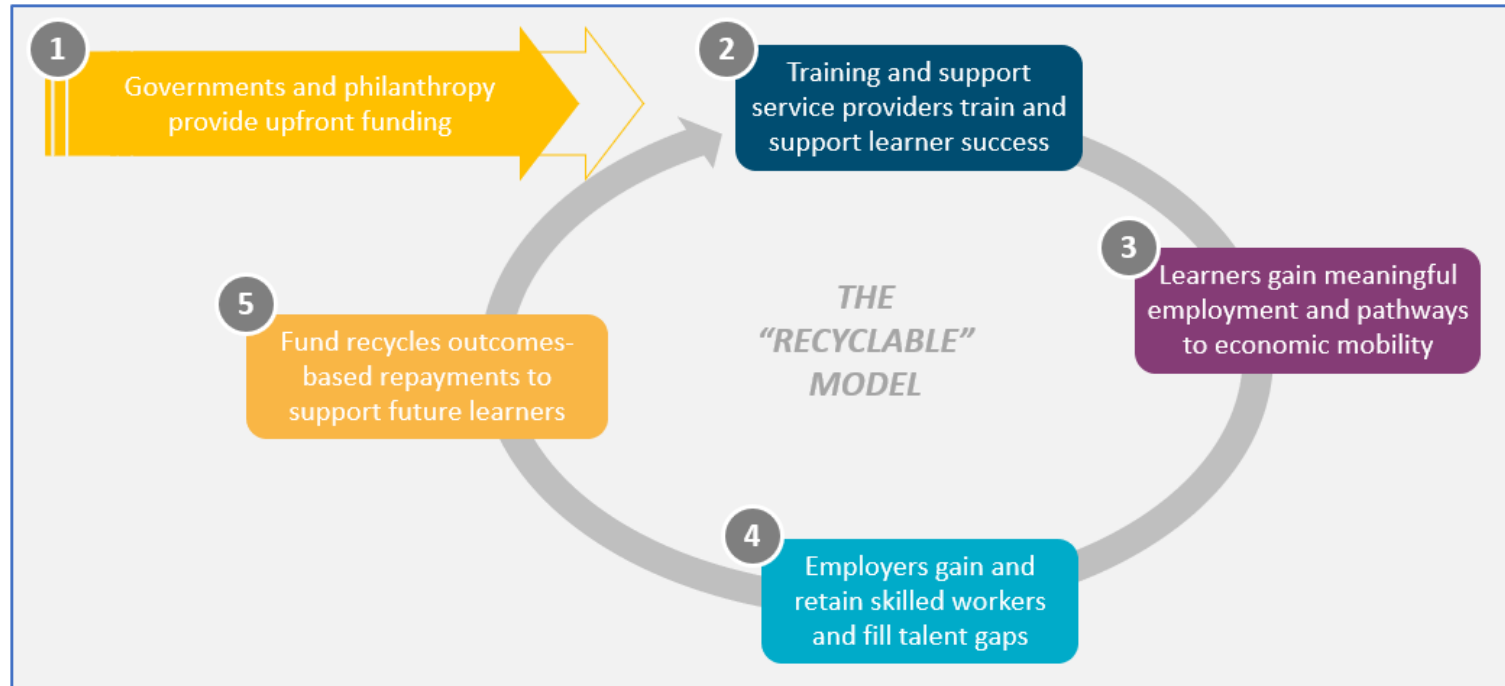
Zero-interest loans and no-cost supports to learners, who do not qualify for federal and/or state funding but do not have financial means to participate in training; once learners are placed into jobs and reach a minimum salary threshold, they repay their loans, with payment going back into the fund.

Benefits:

- (1) More sustainability of funding;
- (2) Expand opportunity to learners who face financial barriers to economic opportunity

Pending allocation:

\$5M+ Bond initiative out of OWS Authorization, beginning with CDL and expanding to other in-demand industries, including healthcare and advanced manufacturing



Potential Occupations

- ✓ CDL
- LPN
- Aerotech
- Mechatronics
- EMTs

Transportation Research Project

\$200,000 Bond Funding

Partners: OWS, in collaboration with 2Gen, 2Gen Advisory Board Members, the CT Department of Transportation and the CT Department of Labor

Consultant: RSG, Inc.

Working Goal: Improve economic mobility for low-income individuals and families by substantially increasing access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation options for employment opportunities and childcare and wrap-around programs.

- Innovative and financially sound program options
- Responsive to needs we hear from different groups across the state

Approach:

1. Landscape Analysis: Utilize mobility big data to identify and address workforce mobility demands, capacity and gaps.
2. Stakeholder Engagement: Engage stakeholders to understand challenges and inform solutions
3. 2-3 Pilot Solutions: Develop workforce-specific transportation pilot programs.

Completion: June 2025

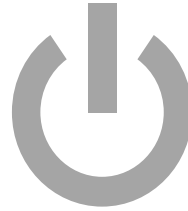
AI Skills for Jobs

\$125,000 Bond Funding



The Project: Project will provide industry-recognized, basic AI skills curriculum, along with professional development, at no cost to nonprofit partners who will then educate the clients they serve on the curriculum

- AI curriculum will provide a solid foundation of both theoretical concepts and practical skills
- The pilot will focus on nonprofits those who provide workforce development training, supportive services and adult education, and those that serve individuals from marginalized and historically underserved communities.



Implementation: ~April 1, 2025
– February 28, 2027



Status: Contracting under way

Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0

\$2.7MM Bond Funding

Year One

- **AI Skills Framework Development:** Identify specific AI skill needs, and generate promising practices for the establishment of AI skills pathways
- **AI Pilot Grants:** Awarded on a competitive basis to current TTA 2.0 grantees and institutions with mature business relationships

Year Two

- **AI Innovation Grants:** Expand to up to 24 grantees from higher education institutions with the goal of addressing critical gaps in AI skills training, with focus on:
 - Reskill/Upskill the Tech Workforce for AI Competencies
 - Align Post-Secondary Training Programs with Industry AI Needs
 - Expand Work-Based Learning Opportunities
 - Create Pathways to AI Development for Secondary Students
- **High Impact Convenings.** TTA 3.0 will include high impact convenings to engage employers in developing the state's AI Skills Framework, as well as a number of statewide roundtables to share lessons learned from the implementation of the initiative.

Adult Education Remediation Pilots

\$1.65MM Bond Funding

- **Accelerated Basic Skills Remediation** in the north central region for individuals interested in occupational training in Manufacturing, IT and Healthcare. Participants receive case management and access to services, including (but not limited to) transportation, childcare, and incentives to support their participation and completion of the course.
- **Information Technology (“IT”)/Tech Skills Remediation** in the North Central Region. Participants receive basic academic and Professional Skills training, along with fundamental knowledge of computer hardware and operating systems, word processing, internet search techniques, and basic troubleshooting.
- **Flexible schedule remediation program** for individuals located in the northwest region interested in occupational training in manufacturing, green energy, and commercial driver’s licensing. Scheduling opportunities include ~8 weeks, ~3 days per week during the day, afternoon, early evenings, or late evenings, ~2.5-hour class sessions, as well as flexible format (virtual, in-person, or both), enabling participants to continue in their current employment while receiving remediation.

The Path Forward

We envision the ability to design and support innovative workforce programs in an agile way and using a holistic data-driven approach to inform strategy, programming, and policy.



Aligned

Workforce Innovation and Sustainability Fund (WIS Fund)

CT jobseekers and employers will benefit from a flexible funding source that focuses on achieving high impact returns to meet current and future talent pipeline demands



Industry Driven

- Incentivize innovation
- Respond quickly to shifting business needs
- Enhance public-private collaboration
- Address gaps in programming for workforce training, especially given impending funding cliffs
- Implement strategies to strengthen outcomes and program delivery
- Scale best practices
- Upskill workers into higher wage positions
- Catalyze private sector and philanthropic funding, to support job training programs, thereby augmenting the state's investment



Equitable



Collaborative



Outcomes Based

An integrate workforce data system

Develop an integrated data system that provides access to workforce development data across stakeholder agencies in real-time for effective decision making and reporting.



Make Workforce Work
for Everyone