

WCTF: WHO DO WE SERVE?

WHAT IS THE WCTF?

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund invests in demand-driven programs designed by industry sector partnerships that train and place unemployed and underemployed workers. Between 2007 and 2017, the Fund invested in **50 partnerships** supporting more than **6,700 youth and adults** to build skills and prepare them for work in occupations such as CNC operator, CDL truck driver, and early childhood educator.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

The WCTF serves men and women across the Commonwealth who are ready to engage in programming but require targeted support to succeed in employment. The population we serve includes individuals who may have experienced trauma or challenges in their past and also may rely on aid from public benefits to support their families, individuals who have been disconnected from the workforce, and people who might not have been able to complete school. Some might not speak English as their first language, have health problems and/or struggle with substance addiction, and some have disabilities.



WHEN DERAY saw a flier in his apartment building from the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board (MVWIB) advertising free training for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) he thought, **"this is what I've been looking for"**. A twenty-five year old father and the oldest of eight brothers and sisters, he wanted to **be a role model** for his family. At the time he had been driving an hour plus from Lawrence to Jamaica Plain where he worked full-time at a gas station earning \$10/hour. **But he wanted more**. He connected with the staff at the MVWIB and learned about the CDL training, which was free due to a state grant through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund. He went through the screening process where he was one of the eight selected from twenty-four to continue with training. In addition to the CDL, the training with Teamsters Local 25 offered him **the opportunity** to earn a hoisting license and OSHA 10. After training the MVWIB connected him to Boston Sand and Gravel where he now works earning **\$25/hour**. He feels like he is setting a good standard for his family. He wants to show them that

even if you don't go to college, you can do something valuable with your life. His son brags about him at school. A huge fan of trucks, he is proud of what his father does. Deray says "it makes me feel good to see him proud of me. **It makes me proud.**" Five years from now, he hopes to be well grounded at Boston Sand and Gravel. And according to Michael Maloney, General Manager and Director of Operations, the timing couldn't be better. There is a generation of workers set to retire in the next few years, and Boston Sand and Gravel will need solid workers to take their place. **Deray is ready.**

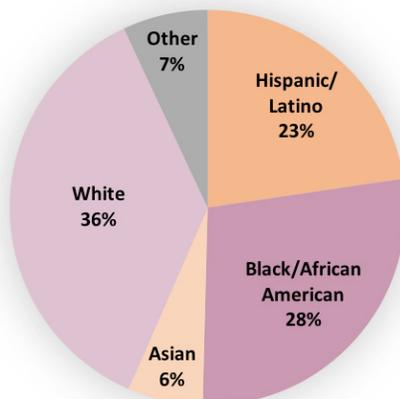
“There's a huge shortage in drivers. If we don't fill these jobs, we're in trouble.”

-Jimmy Donovan, Training Director, Teamsters Local 25

WCTF PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Since 2013, WCTF grants have served 1,236 unemployed and underemployed Massachusetts residents.

Race/Ethnicity



- 83%** Low income
- 36%** Receive public assistance
- 26%** Immigrants
- 22%** First language not English
- 53%** Have a high school diploma or less