2025

COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities

Countering barriers by providing employment opportunities

The Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities was created to address persistent workforce disparities by providing workforce training, employment preparation, and job placement services tailored to the unique strengths and needs of young adults with disabilities across Massachusetts. Administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the program is funded through State Budget (line item 7003-0607) and serves Massachusetts residents with disabilities ages 18–35.

Our 2025 impact

Awarded **$1,065,391** in funding

129 Participants — Completed training

42 Participants — Secured full or part-time employment

52 Participants — Earned a credential

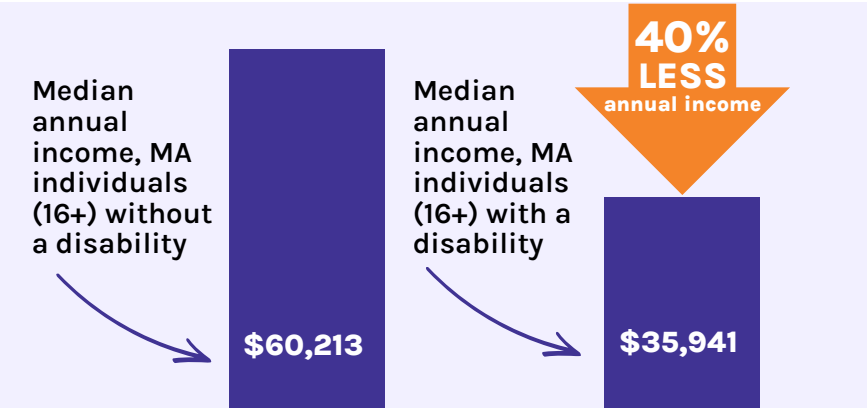
38 Employers — Engaged across 8 industries

Participant disability type

Cognitive difficulty	88%
Independent living difficulty	19%
Self-care difficulty	3%
Hearing difficulty	1%
Vision difficulty	1%
Ambulatory difficulty	1%

Note: Percentages exceed 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

Income disparity between MA individuals (ages 16+) with & without a disability



U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2024)

Massachusetts unemployment rate (ages 18-64)



U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2022 (Table B18120)

Participant placement industries

Retail	39%
Accommodation/Food Service/Hospitality	20%
Other Services	18%
All Other Industries	16%
Transportation & Warehousing	7%

Pre-program education level

80%

High school diploma or equivalent

Example participant occupations

- Store Associate
- Maintenance Worker
- Commercial Production Worker
- Delivery and Requisitions Staff
- Teachers Assistant

Participant story: Building confidence, chasing dreams



The Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) Transitions to Work program provides structured, year-long support for young adults leaving high school. “We work with individuals from diverse communities to help them find employment and build careers,” said Micah Fleisig, Senior Manager of Disability Services at JVS. “Our employer partnerships have led to a more inclusive workforce by hiring, developing, and retaining productive employees in Massachusetts.”

The Transitions to Work Program, recently funded through the Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities, “has become one of Disability Services’ largest and most successful programs, providing support for participants as they are leaving high school and preparing for employment at a critical stage in their career development,” Fleisig explained.

Through the program, participants complete employer-based internships and build skills in workplace communication, interviewing, networking, transportation, and job readiness. Employer partners include CVS Health, Old Colony YMCA, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network, and Boston Children’s Hospital. “Every employer we work with has hired our clients,” said Fleisig.

For participants like Reese Branham-Sanchez, the program provides support at a crucial stage in their career journey. “The program has really helped me build confidence, especially when it comes to interacting with people in a professional setting, something I’ve struggled with in the past,” said Branham-Sanchez. Reese completed an internship with the cafeteria food services team at Spaulding Rehabilitation Network in Charlestown, where he gained hands-on workplace experience with support from a manager and JVS career coach. He now works for Spaulding as a Food Service Assistant.

> **“It has been a huge boost for my confidence, and now I can go chase my dreams because I have a huge steppingstone... Overall, I’m more confident in my day-to-day life, and I’m excited to start a new role.”**