COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program

2025

Improving workforce outcomes for returning citizens

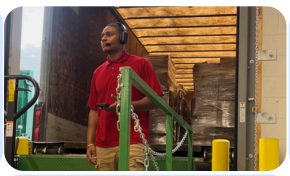
The Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program funds partnerships that help returning citizens transition into the workforce through job training and wraparound support services. Designed to support long-term stability, the program serves individuals who are expected to be released within 180 days of the training program start date, as well as those who have been released within the previous 18 months. The Re-entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program is a state-funded workforce development program (GAA Line Item #7003-0150) administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

2025 program outcomes & demographics

$2.6M Total funding



623 People served



$19/hr Median wage



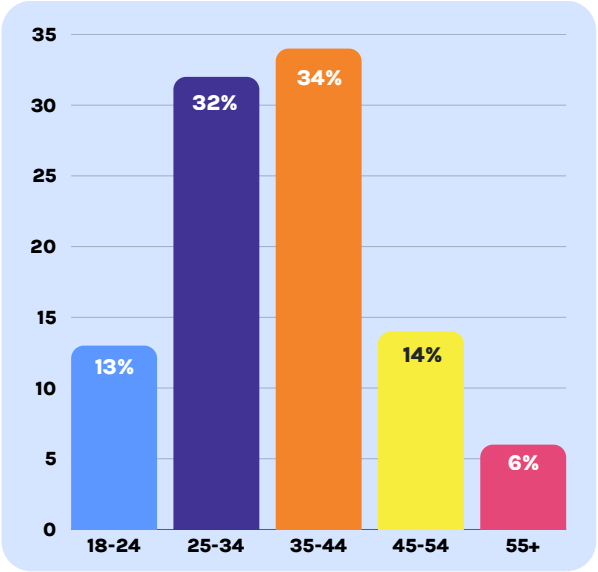
230 Job placements



135 Employers



Age



Gender

Gender Identity	% of participants
Male	81%
Female	18%
Undisclosed/Missing	1%
Non-Binary/Other	<1%

Industries

Top training industries
Accommodation and Food Services
Healthcare and Social Assistance
Construction
Transportation & Warehousing

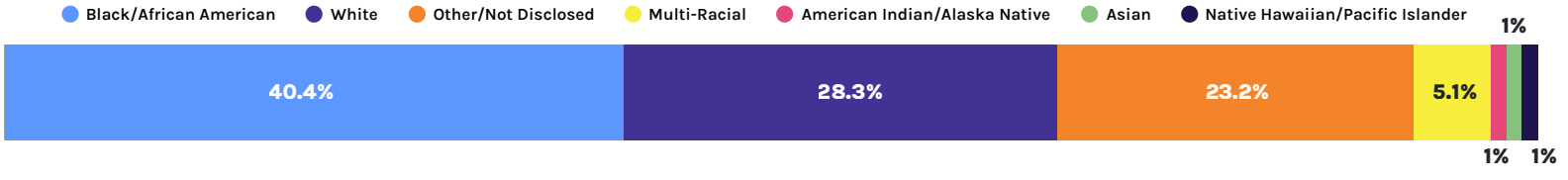
Education

77% High school diploma or less

Ethnicity

35% Hispanic or Latino

Race



Redefining pride through purpose



After being in and out of the prison system for nearly half of his life, Luis Mercier-Torres is now working towards building a new life. “It really has been a new beginning for me, both professionally and in my personal life,” says Luis. It was through the Re-Entry Program at Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) in Greenfield that Luis began a transformative journey, proving that with the proper support, second chances can lead to extraordinary outcomes. CAPV’s Re-Entry Program offers a holistic approach to workforce development for returning citizens. Participants receive wraparound support to meet their immediate needs—such as food, clothing, and transportation—before moving on to job skills training and placement. “It’s a real-life, real-time approach, and we’re there for them every step of the way,” says Nafeeza Castro, Workforce Development Manager at CAPV.

> “I’ve changed my personality and my outlook on life. I realized that I couldn’t let my past define or make up who I am. I can change. I have learned to be reliable and truthful, and all I can say is that I am forever grateful for a new start.”
>
> **Luis Mercier-Torres**

The program offers training in culinary and manufacturing, and participants earn certifications like OSHA and Manufacturing Advancement Center Workforce Innovation Collaborative (MACWIC) credentials before being placed in paid on-the-job training with local employer partners. Luis enrolled in the manufacturing training program, where he earned his OSHA certification and MACWIC credentials. These certifications, combined with hands-on practice and mock interviews, helped him gain confidence and prepare for the workforce. Today, Luis holds two stable jobs as a production worker at the Western Mass Food Processing Center, and as a cashier and shipping/receiving associate at Green Fields Market.

