

OUR IMPACT: PROGRAM YEAR 2024-2025



YouthWorks is a statewide, state-funded workforce development program (GAA Line Item #7002-0012) administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The program supports low-income young people ages 14-25 and provides paid, structured work experiences, prioritizing access to early employment, skill-building, and career exploration.

While supporting employers in developing a skilled and prepared talent pipeline, the program serves as a critical entry point into the workforce for youth who may face barriers to employment. Many participants report experiencing unstable housing, involvement with the justice system, foster care, being a teen parent, being the child of a single parent, having a disability, limited English proficiency, having an IEP or 504 plan, and being part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Through partnerships with employers, schools, and community organizations, YouthWorks participants gain summer and year-round work experience across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, earning \$15-\$20 per hour. YouthWorks also combines on-the-job experience with workforce readiness training through the Signal Success curriculum, helping participants develop foundational skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and professionalism.

Powering Youth Employment Across Massachusetts

YouthWorks serves a racially and ethnically diverse population reflective of the communities across the Commonwealth.

\$20,093,183

Total Funding Awarded

5,387

Participants Served

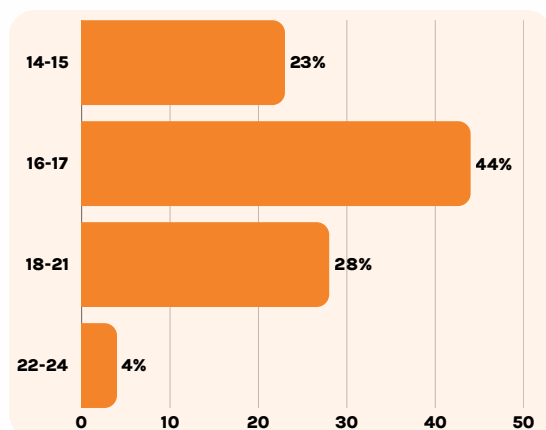
4,392

Paid Work Experiences

668

Employer Partners

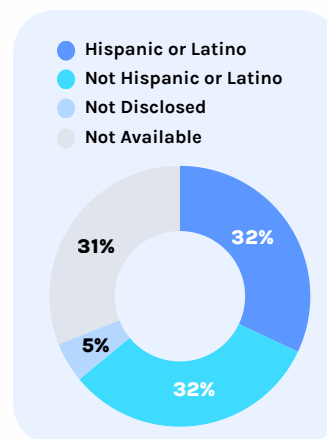
AGE



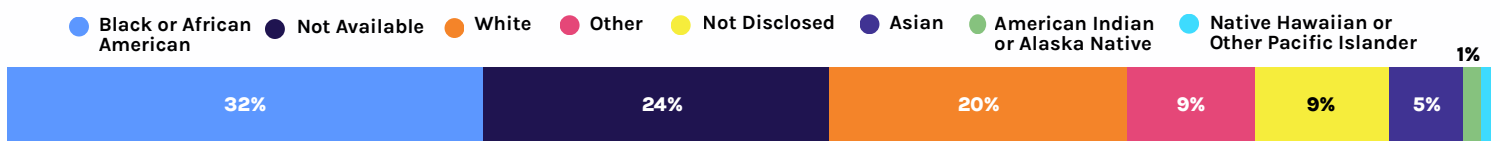
GENDER IDENTITY

Gender Identity	% of Participants
Male	49.3%
Female	48.7%
Non-Binary/Non-Conforming	0.9%
Not Disclosed	0.8%
Transgender	0.3%

ETHNICITY



RACE



Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

PARTICIPANT STORY

From YouthWorks Intern to Robotics Professional



Jack Kertscher first joined New Bedford Research and Robotics (NBRR) through YouthWorks, the statewide youth employment program administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Over multiple summers, he developed technical skills and professional experience that ultimately led to a full-time position with the organization.

A computer science student, Kertscher completed multiple summer internships at NBRR, where he worked on advanced robotics, computer vision, artificial intelligence, and manufacturing projects. He gained hands-on experience testing and improving NBRR's six-axis ceramic 3D printing technology, developed automated detection processes for robotic arms, and explored AI applications for innovative manufacturing systems.

"Through YouthWorks, I was able to work on projects that expanded my interests, improved my skills, and allowed me to contribute back to my community," Kertscher said.

The experience helped Kertscher strengthen his technical knowledge while building workforce skills in research, problem-solving, teamwork, and professional communication.

"Each project forced me to learn new skills that are directly applicable to the workforce. The experience helped me conduct research, build professional relationships, and pursue more advanced topics in robotics."

Mentorship and a collaborative work environment played a key role in his development. The experience ultimately led to a full-time position at NBRR.

Today, Kertscher supports new interns, teaches STEAM classes, and contributes to engineering and technology projects.

"YouthWorks gave me opportunities that helped shape my career," Kertscher said. "I'm grateful for the experience and excited to help future interns succeed."