

# 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 2018, the Fund invested in **over 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.



**LIKE** so many people, Gustavo came to the U.S. **seeking a better life** for his family. He put in long hours, weekends, and continually sacrificed time with the family he was working so hard to support. Neither of his two jobs, one in maintenance and another as a dishwasher, offered much opportunity for advancement. But Gustavo was **determined to improve his circumstances**. In addition to his two jobs, he attended English classes to hone his language skills. While in class, he learned about a training opportunity to get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for free, thanks to a state grant through the WCTF. During the screening process with the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board (MVWIB), Gustavo was concerned his struggle with English might put him at a disadvantage. His **commitment and initiative** set him apart and he was one of eight students selected from twenty-four candidates. Teamsters Local 25 offered him training to earn a CDL, hoisting license, and OSHA 10. Upon completion, the MVWIB connected him to Boston Sand and Gravel, where he now works **earning \$25/hour**, and he has his weekends back with his family. His daughter is approaching the end of high school and

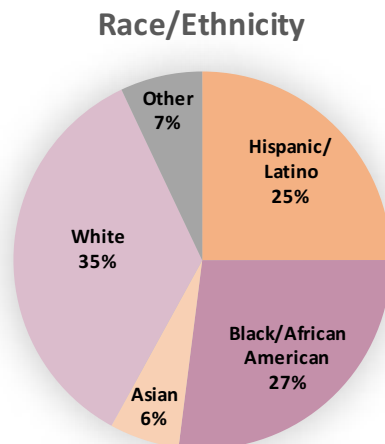
thinking about college. Gustavo is determined to help pay for her education; his career at Boston Sand and Gravel is paving the way for Gustavo and his family to achieve **the life they have worked and hoped for** since first coming to the US. Gustavo isn't the only one who values his future at Boston Sand and Gravel. According to Michael Maloney, GM and Director of Operations, employees like Gustavo are necessary to the success and growth of Boston Sand and Gravel. A generation of workers will retire in the next few years, and Boston Sand and Gravel will need reliable workers to take their place. **Gustavo is up for the challenge.**

“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 1,321 unemployed and underemployed Massachusetts residents.



- 84%** Low income
- 37%** Receive public assistance
- 28%** Immigrants
- 24%** First language not English
- 54%** Have a high school diploma or less