

Updated January 30, 2024

Job Skills Training Program (JSTP) Massachusetts EA Shelter Response

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation have launched the Job Skills Training Program (JSTP) to connect Massachusetts employers with migrants who are on the path to federal work authorization. The Job Skills Training Program will provide training experiences to newly arrived Massachusetts residents who are living in the state's Emergency Shelter Assistance Program and on the path to federal work authorization.

The Job Skills Training Program matches trainees with participating businesses for a pre-set term (usually 12 or 24 weeks). JSTP trainees receive job skills training, exposure to US work culture, and on-the-job learning. In partnership with the MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS) and EA shelter staff, JSTP case managers conduct intake assessments of potential trainees, where they collect information about work experience, professional skills, and interests. They use this to make a successful match between trainees and participating businesses.

How Does JSTP Work?

- Companies pay a fee to participate in the program. Companies can use the program term to evaluate and vet trainees as potential future employees. If a trainee is determined to be a good organizational fit, a participating business could hire them in the future.
- Trainees receive a needs-based state benefit payment on a biweekly basis
- Trainees receive job skills for 18-25 hours/week at a participating business
- The JSTP is supported by a robust case management team that supports trainees and participating businesses every step of the way, from candidate screening to training placement

Why Should Businesses Participate?

Addressing the migrant crisis is a priority of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, and the Job Skills Training Program is a win for all involved. By participating, you are helping new Massachusetts residents learn essential job skills, which will in turn help them acquire jobs when they obtain federal work authorization. Your partnership in the Job Skills Training Program will give back to our state and help our economy thrive.

At the same time, JSTP supports businesses facing workforce challenges by addressing the ongoing shortage of skilled individuals. This program can help businesses evaluate training practices and fill hard-to-place and hard-to-retain positions.

We're ready to hear from you. If you are interested, please email LWDBusinessinfo@mass.gov to learn how you can get involved!