

Job Skills Training Program
Massachusetts EA Shelter Response
Overview of Programming

The Healey-Driscoll Administration, in coordination with Commonwealth Corporation Foundation, is launching the **Job Skills Training Program (JSTP)** to provide a training experience for new arrivals currently residing in the state’s Emergency Assistance Program and on the path to federal work authorization.

Facilitated by Commonwealth Corporation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, employers will participate in a workforce training program that offers job training, exposure, and work readiness for eligible program participants. In partnership with MassHire and shelter staff, the administration will conduct intake assessments for new arrivals to then match the skills of individuals with job training opportunities hosted by participating employers. Individual program participants will receive a bi-weekly need-based benefit payment following successful completion of pre-determined training and education hours.

In August 2023, Governor Healey declared a state of emergency for Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrants arriving in Massachusetts in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability in the state. The JSTP offers innovative pathways for new arrivals to gain on-the-job experience and complements the existing workforces of employers facing workforce challenges.

If employers are interested in participating in the JSTP, they can email LWDBusinessInfo@mass.gov and a team representative will reach out with more details about the program and how to get started.

Program Structure Options

Hours per week of the on-the-job training component will be determined as appropriate for the participating employer and reflected in a Host Agreement Contract and Participant Agreement Contract. It is expected that 25 hours will generally allow program participants both a meaningful on-the-job experience and sufficient time for managing other resource needs. Below are examples of program payment structures available, but the structure may be modified:

<i>Number of Weeks / Months</i>	<i>Total Program Cost</i>
12 weeks / 3 months	\$5,000
24 weeks / 6 months	\$10,000

In addition to participation in this program, individual participants will have access to career coaching and other work readiness resources through MassHire and other partnering organizations.