



2022 ARPA CTI Funding Report

Career Technical Initiative



A SIGNATURE INITIATIVE OF THE WORKFORCE SKILLS CABINET AND GOVERNOR BAKER

To address the persistent demand in construction, trades, and manufacturing, Governor Baker announced a new initiative in January 2020 to transform vocational high schools into Career Technical Institutes, running three shifts per day to expand enrollment of high school students and adults. Two months later, the COVID-19 pandemic initiated a shutdown of the economy, and its unprecedented impacts continue to be felt to this day.

The purpose of the Career Technical Initiative (CTI) is to expand training opportunities for unemployed and underemployed adult workers in in-demand industries or occupations by building capacity in “third shift/after dark” training at high schools with designated aligned Chapter 74 vocational programs. CTI provides funding to vocational technical schools in partnership with MassHire Career Centers to expand training capacity that will upskill new workers to address employers' hiring needs across a broad range of manufacturing, construction, or trades occupations.

Commonwealth Corporation administers CTI on behalf of the Workforce Skills Cabinet. This legislative report is in response to a requirement in the bill, An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs, which provided American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Recovery Fund (CSFRF) funding for CTI:

“...and provided further, that annually, not later than June 1, the executive office of labor and workforce development shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on labor and workforce development that shall include, but not be limited to, the: (a) vocational technical schools that are operating career technical institutes; (b) the number of students served by career technical institutes and the number of adult learners participating in industry-recognized credentialing pathways, delineated by training program; and (c) employment outcomes of the graduates of such training programs.”

The Career Technical Initiative launched in 2021 with 8 participating schools funded through the FY'21 state budget allocation. The Workforce Skills Cabinet committed an additional twenty-five million dollars in ARPA CSFRF funding, appropriated by the state legislature, in December of 2021 to grow the number of CTI participating schools, available career pathways, completed trainings, and job placement.

Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) successfully provided additional awards to scale up the inaugural class of grantees and provided 4 new schools with CTI funds to expand the reach of this initiative. These funds were made available in the FY'22 state budget and were issued through subsequent rounds of funding.

The focus of this report is to provide a status update on performance captured in rounds 1 and 2 of CTI funding for schools with reportable outcomes. This report does not include numbers on rounds 3 through 5 as those training programs are still in progress or yet to launch.

UPDATE ON CURRENT FUNDING

To prepare for the allocation of the ARPA CSFRF funds, a sixth round of funding was made available to both new and existing schools. Leading up to the Round 6 Application deadline in April 2022, CommCorp hosted events for existing and newly interested grantees to provide detailed assistance for setting up and operating adult training programs through the Career Technical Institutes. A cross organizational team, made up of representatives from EOE, EOLWD, MAVA and CommCorp, hosted four events in 2022;

PLANNING SEMINAR

The Planning Seminar was held in-person at Tri-County on Wednesday March 16th. The CTI team created an agenda to set up the schools with information for future success in running CTI programs. After an introduction to CTI, presenters shared information on Program Participation and Occupations, Program Design and Employer Engagement, Allowable Costs and Budgeting, and Upcoming Grant Opportunities & Support.

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Following the Planning Seminar, the CTI team offered virtual office hours on three consecutive Wednesdays in April to answer questions about the CTI program and application process.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Lastly, the CTI team offered a Community of Practice virtual session on Thursday, May 12th for Round 1-5 grantees, to discuss best practices and advice for others as we moved into the Round 6 review period.

1-ON-1 MEETINGS

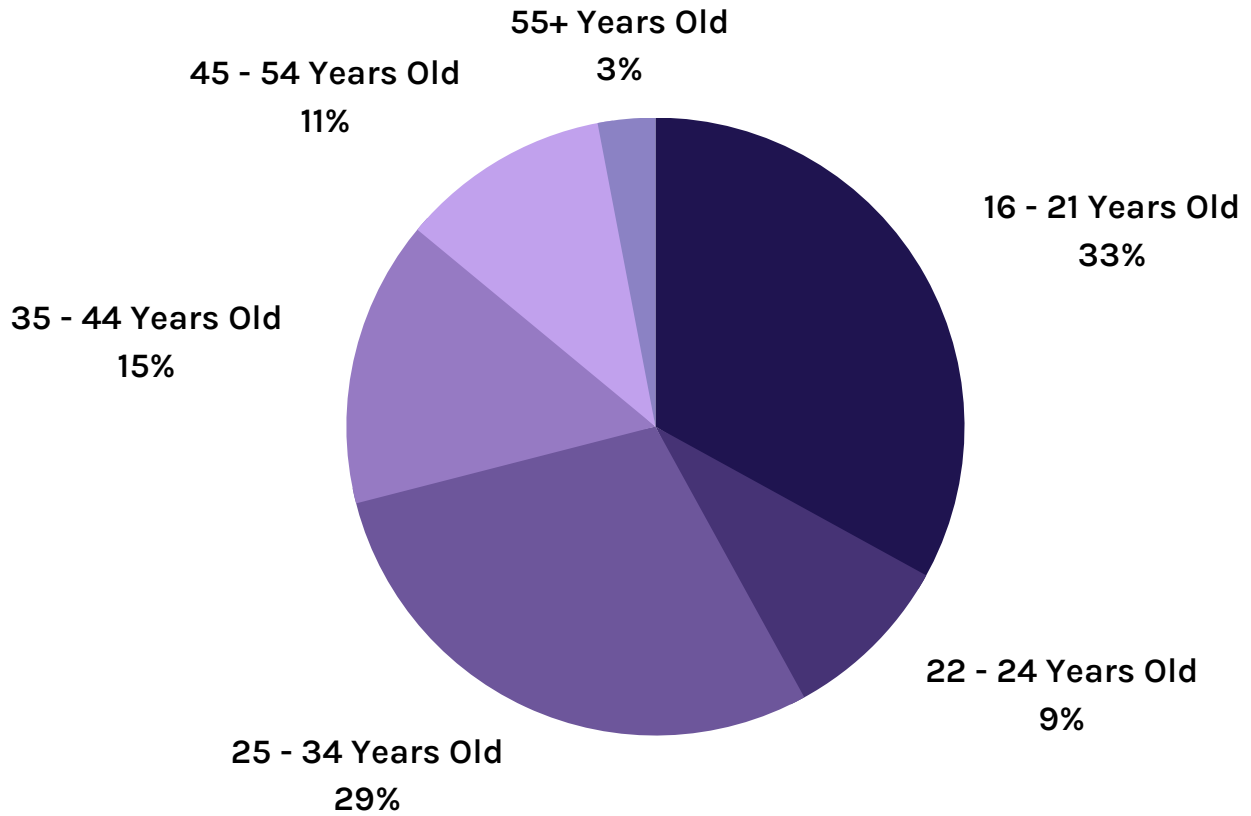
If a grantee had questions specific to their application, the CTI team offered follow up one-on-one meetings to answer any remaining questions with MAVA (Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators) partners. All applicants had access to this technical assistance to receive tailored guidance on budget format and layout, along with sharing information on how grantees can be successful running this program.

Presently, the dedicated ARPA funds for CTI have not been awarded, yet a series of activities occurred to build the capacity of new and existing schools for successful implementation. The technical assistance and event programming that the CTI team provided resulted in twenty applications submitted for Round 6. ARPA CSFRF funding for CTI will be utilized to fund grantees that have the capacity and are prepared to run CTI programming at their Vocational Schools. Most recently, Commonwealth Corporation received twenty applications for Round 6 of the Career Technical Initiative, thirteen of which were from new vocational schools and 7 schools who want to continue offering CTI programs.

In Round 6, CommCorp received requests for Start-up and Implementation grant funding for over \$8 million dollars. With the \$25 million ARPA CSFRF funds, there will be a continuation of existing successful CTI programming that will allow participants to learn new, competitive skills and begin work in in-demand industry occupations with employer partners that are dedicated to hiring CTI graduates. The CTI team will continue to support ongoing planning and development activities to support additional schools interested in accessing CTI resources, including adding subsequent rounds of funding later this year.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

CTI FY21 & FY22 Funding CTI Prioritizes Expanding Access to in-demand Careers for Diverse Population Groups



Average Age: 30

Employment Status

Unemployed 52%
Employed 48%

Education Level

Less than HS Diploma 1%
HS Diploma/GED/HiSET 56%
Some Postsec/College 25%
Associate's Degree 9%
Bachelor's Degree 8%
Master's Degree 1%

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino 42%
African American 8%
Asian 1%
White 41%
Multi-Racial/Other 8%

Gender

Female 19%
Male 81%

Select Other Characteristics

Person with Disabilities 6%
Immigrant (not born in US) 27%
Language Not English 16%
Public Assistance 43%
Low-Income (200% Poverty) 73%

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS THAT ARE OPERATING CAREER TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

CTI FY21 & FY22 Funding

Amount of funding each vocational-technical school awarded through May 2022*

School	Planning	Implementation / Start-Up	Total Funding
Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District	✓	✓	\$ 1,113,540.00
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School		✓	\$ 1,320,000.00
Franklin County Technical School	✓		\$ 10,000.00
Greater Fall River Vocational School District		✓	\$ 100,000.00
Greater Lawrence Technical School		✓	\$ 1,537,000.00
Greater Lowell Technical School		✓	\$ 280,000.00
Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical Institute	✓		\$ 10,000.00
Madison Park Technical Vocational School		✓	\$ 616,000.00
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District		✓	\$ 770,000.00
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School		✓	\$ 994,669.54
Nashoba Valley Technical HS - Community Ed/Adult Ed		✓	\$ 520,000.00
South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School	✓		\$ 9,986.00
Southeastern Regional School District		✓	\$ 868,122.42
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School		✓	\$ 219,959.80
Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School	✓		\$ 9,986.00
Westfield Public Schools	✓		\$ 3,559.50
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School		✓	\$ 538,000.00
Worcester Public Schools	✓		\$ 10,000.00
Grand Total			\$ 8,930,823.26

*Commonwealth Corporation and the Workforce Skills Cabinet continue to engage schools throughout FY22, and the exact amount ultimately received by schools is subject to performance metrics and use of funds throughout implementation and planning phases.

INITIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Since the launch of CTI, multiple training pathways have begun operation. For this initial annual report, we are reporting on data collected through May 2022. Data is subject to change and there are ongoing adjustments as grants progress.

Between funding rounds 1 and 2, 281 adult learners have been served through CTI programs.

Job placement and retention rates for the program completers will be measured a quarter after the close out of grants for each grant allowing grantees to collect information from the participants on employment status following program completion, data clean-up such as reconciling documentation requirements, 30-day retention benchmarks, and participant-level follow-up activities. There are no closed grants as of the publication of this report (June 2022) however, CommCorp will detail the outcome of these placements in a future report.

GRANTEE NAME	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Greater Fall River Voc School District	7	0	7
Essex Northshore Agricultural & Tech	35	36	71
Greater Lawrence Tech School	60	0	60
Greater Lowell Voc Tech	0	18	18
Madison Park Voc Tech	0	22	22
Minuteman Regional Voc Tech School	23	0	23
Montachusett Regional Voc Tech School	13	0	13
Nashoba Valley Tech HS	16	32	48
Southeastern Regional School District	4	0	4
Whittier Regional Voc Tech High School	15	0	15
Total	173	108	281

TRAINING PATHWAY	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Advanced Manufacturing	11	18	29
Automotive Technology	19	0	19
Biotechnology	13	0	13
Carpentry	23	0	23
Construction Labor	6	4	10
Electrical	10	9	19
HVAC	27	21	48
Welding	32	31	63
Plumbing	32	25	57
Total	173	108	281



PLANNING SEMINAR

Commonwealth Corporation Hosts CTI Grant Info Session

CommCorp hosted an in-person Planning Seminar at Tri-County on March 16th, 2022. Participants learned about the CTI funding opportunity, including how to submit an application that meets the review requirements.

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Essex Tech CTI Graduates Find Success in Their Career

During the Workforce Skills Cabinet RoadShow event, a graduate of Essex Tech's CTI program talked about finding success after completing the program.

Initially, he enrolled in a traditional college but soon realized that it was not the right fit. Upon completing the CTI program at Essex Tech, he was hired by the Union on a project in the Seaport District in Boston, making \$75/hour.





We thank you for your continued support.

Commonwealth Corporation

2 Oliver St, Boston, MA 02110

617-727-8158

commcorp.org