



**Career
Technical
Initiative**

2023

ARPA FUNDING

REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Career Technical Initiative (CTI) is an initiative of the Workforce Skills Cabinet (WSC) which aims to address the persistent demand for workers in manufacturing, construction, and trades by expanding training capacity for Massachusetts residents. On behalf of the WSC, Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) administers CTI, building capacity at high schools with designated aligned Chapter 74 vocational programs. Using existing facilities and equipment, the schools provide training for in-demand pathways through evening and weekend shifts to unemployed and underemployed individuals. CTI forms a collaboration between vocational technical schools, MassHire Career Centers, and Market Makers to engage employers and ensure training programs meet local workforce demand, recruit students, and place students in jobs upon graduation.

CTI launched with 10 participating schools in Fiscal Year (FY) 21, expanded to 12 schools in FY22, and grew to 27 schools in FY23, serving a total of over 1,300 students in 18 different career pathway programs across the Commonwealth. CTI is funded through appropriations in the FY21, FY22, and FY23 State Budget and funds appropriated through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. To date, \$64.7 million has been appropriated to fund this initiative, with a total of \$20.3 million awarded through seven rounds of funding. Additional funds will be awarded in FY24 through requests for proposals.



A SIGNATURE INITIATIVE OF THE WORKFORCE SKILLS CABINET

In January 2020, the Workforce Skills Cabinet announced the creation of the Career Technical Initiative (CTI), with the objective of addressing the persistent demand for workers in construction, trades, and manufacturing businesses across the Commonwealth. By leveraging the state's existing vocational training resources at high schools, CTI provides a growing number of Massachusetts residents with access to high-quality career technical training, creating a pipeline of skilled, credentialed workers to meet employers' hiring needs.

CommCorp administers CTI, supporting designated Chapter 74 vocational programs to increase capacity to offer training to adults. CTI programs are offered in an “after dark” format designed to upskill adult learners during times outside the typical school day when vocational technical facilities are underutilized. This approach transforms vocational high schools across the Commonwealth into “Career Technical Institutes” that run three shifts a day for increased accessibility, including a night/weekend program for adults with integrated credentialing, wraparound support, and placement services.

CTI's target population is unemployed and underemployed Massachusetts residents who require additional skills to meet employers' hiring requirements, have been disconnected from the workforce, and need support reconnecting to job opportunities.

An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs, which provided American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) funding for CTI directs:

“... 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) 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.”

This report provides an update on the performance of programs funded in CTI Rounds one through four. This report does not include performance data on Rounds five through seven as those training programs are still in progress or will launch between July 2023 and April 2025, consistent with their workplan.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



CREATING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

The strategic use of state and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds supported new roles within the MassHire system, including regional MassHire Upskilling Navigators and Market Makers. CTI schools partner with the Market Makers and Upskilling Navigators to determine labor market needs in each workforce region, engage employers, recruit and screen participants, and place graduates into jobs.

UPSKILLING NAVIGATORS

Upskilling Navigators are located at MassHire Career Centers across the Commonwealth and work to streamline marketing, recruitment, screening, and enrollment in state-funded training and employment programs, including CTI. As subject matter experts on skill development training and program availability in their region, Upskilling Navigators also provide coaching and counseling to MassHire customers and support candidates in enrolling in CTI programs.

MARKET MAKERS

The Workforce Skills Cabinet (WSC) has established seven regional workforce skills planning regions, and Market Makers are new roles within the lead MassHire Workforce Board across these seven regions. Market Makers are tasked with engaging with employers, matching employers with training providers and grant funding opportunities, helping employers hire employees, and building pipelines of skilled workers. Market Makers help CTI-funded schools understand business needs in their respective regions and design pathways for in-demand occupations. Additionally, Market Makers build stronger connections between businesses, community-based organizations, regional state partners, and the WSC and its representatives.

EMPLOYERS

Employers play a vital role in the design of CTI, including providing first-hand information on the economic outlook of their respective business and helping Market Makers understand their specific workforce needs. Employers enter partnerships with Career Technical Institutes to inform curriculum design of the after-dark training programs and support their marketing efforts. As subject matter experts in their field, employers also partner with CTI programs by providing information on industry trends and assigning staff as instructors when needed. Employers also offer internship opportunities to CTI students and hire them upon graduation.

CAREER TECHNICAL INSTITUTES &
GRANT AWARDS



CAREER TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND GRANT AWARDS

CTI launched in 2021 with 10 participating schools funded through the FY21 state budget allocation. In December 2021, the WSC committed an additional \$25 million in ARPA CSFRF funding appropriated by the state legislature to grow the number of CTI-participating schools and available career pathways. CTI expanded to 12 schools in FY22 and to 27 schools in FY23. Of the combined appropriation of \$64.7 million in state and ARPA funds, \$20.3 million has been awarded through seven rounds of funding, and additional funds will be awarded in FY24 through requests for proposals.

CTI FY21-FY23 FUNDING

The table below includes the total amount of funding awarded to each vocational school for planning and implementation/start-up funding as part of the CTI program between the launch of CTI and May 2023.*

GRANTEE NAME	PLANNING	IMPLEMENTATION/ START UP	TOTAL FUNDING
Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District	x	x	\$1,477,500.00
Blue Hills Regional Technical School		x	\$544,000.00
Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School		x	\$66,318.00
Cape Cod Regional Technical High School		x	\$104,578.15
City of Westfield/Westfield Public Schools	x		\$3,559.50
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School		x	\$2,807,000.00
Franklin County Technical School	x	x	\$626,000.00
Greater Fall River Vocational School District (Diman)		x	\$100,000.00
Greater Lawrence Technical School		x	\$2,309,000.00
Greater Lowell Technical High School		x	\$628,000.00
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School	x	x	\$290,000.00
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School		x	\$1,148,000.00

*CommCorp and the Workforce Skills Cabinet continue to engage schools throughout FY23, and the exact amount ultimately received by schools is subject to performance metrics and use of funds throughout implementation and planning phases.

CAREER TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND GRANT AWARDS CONTINUED

GRANTEE NAME	PLANNING	IMPLEMENTATION/ START UP	TOTAL FUNDING
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District		x	\$2,020,354.00
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School		x	\$987,669.54
Nashoba Valley Technical High School		x	\$1,621,000.00
Old Colony RVTHS		x	\$279,813.20
Pathfinder Regional VTHSD		x	\$280,000.00
Salem Public Schools		x	\$327,948.00
Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School		x	\$159,992.50
Southeastern Regional School District		x	\$768,685.98
Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District		x	\$471,702.00
South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School	x	x	\$673,986.00
Taunton High School		x	\$215,237.00
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District		x	\$579,742.00
Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School	x	x	\$529,598.82
Weymouth Public Schools		x	\$171,347.00
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School		x	\$938,000.00
Worcester Public Schools	x	x	\$241,787.66
TOTAL			\$20,370,819.35

ENROLLMENT GROWTH



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Between funding Rounds one and two, 244 adult learners were served through CTI pathways in manufacturing and construction/trades.* Subsequently, in Rounds three and four, the enrollment experienced a notable 37 percent growth, reaching a total of 335 students. The ongoing programs of Rounds five and six have seen further progress, with an enrollment of 706 students, indicating a substantial increase of 110%. Round seven enrollments have just started, with 16 so far. As Round seven programs continue their enrollment activities, we will provide a comprehensive update on enrollment trends in the June 2024 annual report. Currently, the combined number of students enrolled in CTI programs stands at 1,301, encompassing the data from all funding rounds thus far.

GRANTEE NAME	TOTAL ENROLLMENT (ROUNDS 1-7)
Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District	45
Blue Hills Technical School	37
Cape Cod Regional Tech High School	13
Greater Fall River Vocational School District (Diman)	7
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School	192
Franklin County Technical School	43
Greater Lawrence Technical School	191
Greater Lowell Technical High School	47
Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School	24
Madison Park Vocational Technical High School	113
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District	73
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School	105

*For this report, we are reporting on data collected through May 2023. Data are subject to change, and there are ongoing adjustments as grants progress.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH CONTINUED

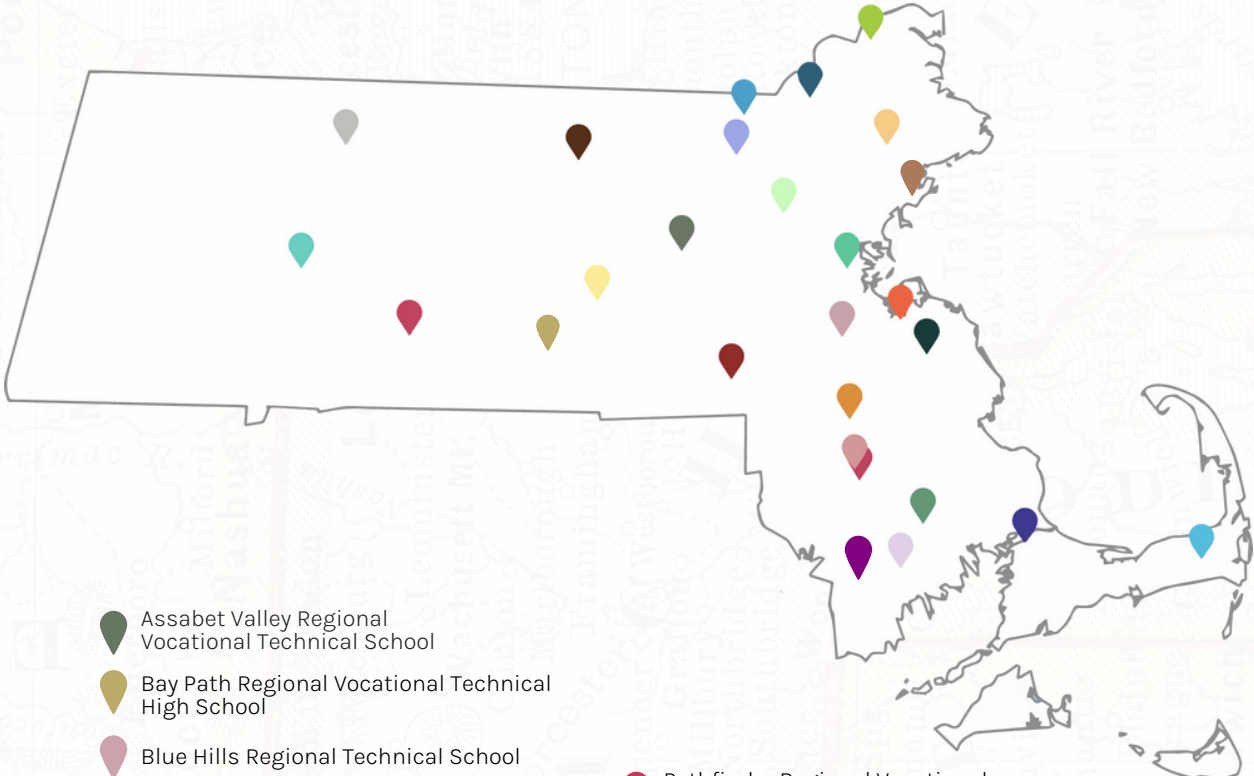
GRANTEE NAME	TOTAL ENROLLMENT (ROUNDS 1-7)
Nashoba Valley Technical High School	103
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School	20
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School	21
Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School	10
South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School	89
Southeastern Technical Institute	30
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District	8
Upper Cape Cod Technical School	29
Weymouth High School CTI	12
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District	61
Worcester Public Schools Night Life CE	28
Grand Total	1,301

ENROLLMENT GROWTH CONTINUED

The table below provides an overview of the total enrollment for different training pathways in CTI programs across Rounds one to seven. Pathways such as carpentry, welding, metal fabrication, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC, collectively account for 67 percent of the total enrollment. This indicates a strong interest in hands-on technical skills and vocational training in fields that are in high demand across the Commonwealth. While some pathways have comparatively lower enrollment, they provide opportunities for students interested in specialized fields. This demonstrates CTI's reach and impact, providing educational and training opportunities to a substantial number of individuals seeking skills development and career advancement.

TRAINING PATHWAY	TOTAL ENROLLMENT (ROUNDS 1-7)
Advanced Manufacturing	51
Auto Body/Collision Repair	43
Automotive Technology	167
Biotechnology Lab Tech	13
Carpentry	181
Construction Labor	19
Culinary Arts	58
Diesel Technician	8
Electrical	83
Electrical Systems Tech	16
Electronics Tech	18
Groundskeeping & Equipment	23
HVAC	168
Marine Trades Tech	6
Plumbing	148
Welding/Metal Fabrication	299
Grand Total	1,301

CTI SCHOOLS FUNDED TO DATE



- Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School
- Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Blue Hills Regional Technical School
- Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School
- Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
- Diman Regional Vocational Tech High School
- Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School
- Franklin County Technical School
- Greater Lowell Technical High School
- Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
- Worcester Public Schools
- Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District
- Greater Lawrence Technical School
- Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District
- Salem High School
- Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
- Southeastern Regional School District
- South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Taunton High School
- Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District
- Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School
- Weymouth Public Schools
- Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Nashoba Valley Technical High School
- Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

INSPIRING NARRATIVES OF **ACHIEVEMENT**



Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Helps to Close the Skills Gap in Carpentry →

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Helps to Close the Skills Gap in Carpentry

There's a need for skilled carpenters nationwide, and the construction field in Massachusetts is feeling it. "We can all agree, there is a serious labor shortage, particularly for skilled labor in our state," said Ziven Drake, Assistant Executive Director, North Atlantic States Carpenter Training Fund.



According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), wood is the most common material used in new home construction, with 90 percent of homes completed in 2019 being wood-framed. A report released by the NAHB in 2022 highlights a dire need for carpentry, standing out among other occupations in the building trades for its workforce shortage issues challenged by historic recruitment and retention issues. In March of 2022, carpentry faced an acute shortage of 400,000 jobs across the U.S., making this role far more challenging for builders to hire. Despite this shortage, the carpentry job market is expected to grow by 8.2% between 2016 and 2026.

As a Career Technical Initiative (CTI) grantee, Boston Public School (BPS)'s Adult Education partnered with Madison Park Technical Vocational High School to address this occupational shortage, offering adult learners after-hours carpentry training. Serge-Eric Andre, director of Career Technical Education, says, "Working with construction firms, we realize there's an outlet for continued career paths for the entry-level carpentry point. There's truly a big need due to the booming construction in Massachusetts, particularly for women. For us at BPS, this was a great chance to create employment opportunities."

Madison Park's CTI program partnered with the North Atlantic State Carpenter Training Fund in supporting curriculum development and guarantees students a job interview with the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, leading to employment opportunities. Students who consequently enter the union have the opportunity to become apprentice carpenters, where they can continue to grasp their skills and subsequently be placed on job sites.

"What is nice about our partnership is the ability to train individuals that can work in building the city that they live in," says Ziven Drake, Assistant Executive Director at the North Atlantic States Carpenter Training Fund. "Together, we train them to gain skills that can lead to long-term careers in carpentry." At Madison Park, students learn how to measure, cut wood, and install flooring, siding, and drywalls—all skills needed in the industry. Andre says they teach students proper tool usage and safety protocols, and they receive OSHA 10 Certification, CPR First Aid training, and Hot Works Safety Certification.

In addition, the program has established valuable partnerships with Wooden Kiwi Productions, a renowned company specializing in project management, design, and construction, as well as Boston Wood, known for their expertise in wood handcrafted furniture and cabinet design. These partnerships provide students with exceptional opportunities for job interviews and employment.

"The goal for these programs is job placements and to address the pay and equity gap," says Andre. "The population that we serve, a lot of individuals have not gone to college, and this gives them an opportunity to learn skills that can take them towards a prominent career. We affect their lives and the community that we serve."

Construction sites are forced to outsource workers due to the lack of a local, equipped workforce. Partnerships like CTI help to ensure Massachusetts' jobs are filled by local community members. "Carpentry is a team sport, and as we look into the future, it's going to take many entities to meet the demands," says Drake. "One organization won't be able to work, but by working collectively and collaboratively, our chances of success are much better."

Post-graduation, students are also invited to apply for the North Atlantic State Carpenter Training Fund's apprenticeship program designed to develop the talents and skills of up-and-coming carpenters thoroughly. The four-year program offers apprentices a pathway to a meaningful career through a combination of classroom, shop learning, and on-the-job training while employed.

Zein says that while this was a pilot program at Madison Park Tech, they are working on strengthening partnerships to support the pipeline of workers into the construction industry. "This is a stepping stone as people look for upward mobility and to move up the ladder. Building the pipeline is what it's all about."



OUTCOMES & **IMPACT**



OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The progress and success of programs are measured using four performance benchmarks: enrollment, program completion, credential attainment, and employment and retention. Job placement and retention rates for program completers are measured a quarter after the close out of each grant. This allows 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.

As of June 2023, Rounds one, two, three, and four were closed and completed (with the exception of one outstanding grant from round three). Rounds five through seven are ongoing, and CommCorp will detail the outcome of placements for those rounds in future reports as the data becomes available.

For Rounds, one through four, CTI funded 12 Chapter 74 schools across the Commonwealth to set up a total of 11 training pathways aligned with occupational demand in respective regions. Welding, HVAC, and Carpentry were the most applied training pathways, accounting for 57 percent of a total of 581 enrollments. Among all program participants, 88 percent of students completed the program and earned one or more credentials. Typically, students combine safety credentials (e.g., OSHA 10/30 or Hot Work Safety) with technical credentials, such as AWS 1G for welding, EPA608 for HVAC, or MEWPS for carpentry. Upon completion of training, graduates receive high-quality training and industry-recognized credentials and are placed into high-demand occupations.

The implementation of CTI programming started during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Round one commencing in January 2020 and concluding in 2021. Round two was awarded and launched during the peak of the pandemic, and completion dates were extended until June 2022. Considering the timing of the CTI program inception, the first two rounds faced the challenge of facilitating job placements for graduates during a period defined by widespread business closures, layoffs, furloughs, and other significant disruptions in the job market caused by the pandemic. Despite these challenges, the employment rate for graduates from Rounds one and two stands at 86 percent.² Rounds three and four are still in the process of completing their job placements; currently, the employment rate among graduates for Rounds three and four is 77 percent, which will increase as placements continue. CTI graduates receive job placement assistance through the MassHire system.

Among the graduates hired upon completing training through CTI, 34 percent reported a salary range between \$20-25 per hour, and 12 percent reported earning \$25 per hour or greater. For rounds one through four, CTI has partnered with 233 employers who have hired from this skilled pipeline.

² Placement data were derived from a records-matching process facilitated through a data-sharing agreement between Commonwealth Corporation and the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DEMOGRAPHICS

OF CTI STUDENTS



DEMOGRAPHICS OF CTI STUDENTS

The following data provides information about CTI students in relation to age, race, ethnicity, gender, employed status at enrollment, and other characteristics. These data points provide valuable insights into the demographic composition and unique attributes of CTI students. The student population has become more diverse, with the largest group being Hispanic/Latinx students (36%), followed by students identifying as "white" (decreasing from 41% in 2022 to 34% in 2023), while the percentage of Black/African-American students rose from 8% to 15%. Rounds one through four also represent an almost equal breakdown of unemployed and underemployed program participants prior to enrolling in CTI's job training. Furthermore, 73 percent of student identified as low-income. Additionally, 84 percent of enrollees did not hold an Associate's, Bachelor's, or advanced degree.

Age	Age 17-24 Years Old	45%
	Age 25-34 Years Old	27%
	Age 35-44 Years Old	15%
	Age 45-54 Years Old	9%
	Age 55+ Years Old	4%
	Average Age	29.5 yrs
Median Age	26 yrs	

Gender	Female	18%
	Male	80%
	Non-Binary/Other	1%
	Not Disclosed	1%

Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
	Asian	1%
	Black/African American	15%
	Hispanic/Latinx	36%
	Multi-Racial	8%
	Other/Not Disclosed	5%
	White	34%

Employed Status at Enrollment	Unemployed	48%
	Under-employed	52%

Highest Level of Education	Less Than High School	2%
	High School Diploma/HiSET/GED	59%
	Some Postsecondary/College	23%
	Associate Degree	7%
	Bachelor Degree or Higher	9%

Other Characteristics	Persons with Disabilities	7%
	Immigrant	25%
	Language Not English	16%
	Receiving Public Assistance	42%
	Low Income ³	73%
	UI Claimant/Exhaustee	20%

³ Low Income: Participant is considered low-income if their annual family income is below 200% of the poverty income level for the size of family and/or is receiving public assistance such as TAFDC, SNAP, EAEDC, SSI.

INSPIRING NARRATIVES OF **ACHIEVEMENT**



Cape Cod Regional Technical High School: Beautifying Spaces, Improving Quality of Life Through Groundskeeping Program →



Cape Cod Regional Technical High School: Beautifying Spaces, Improving Quality of Life Through Groundskeeping Program

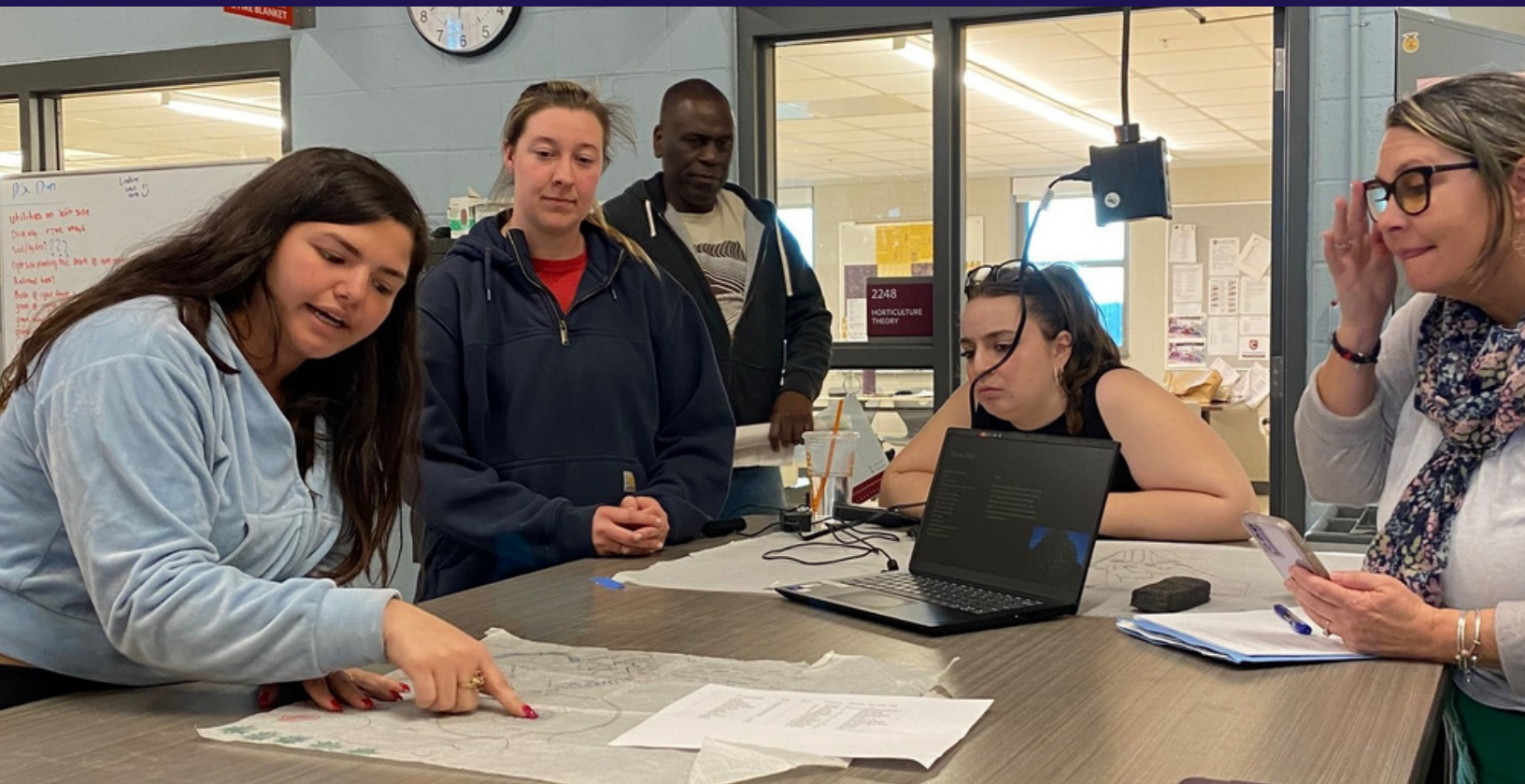


When you think about Cape Cod, some of the first things that come to mind are likely to be fresh air, clean beaches, and a relaxing horizon. This picturesque scenery is often accompanied by beautifully maintained lawns, colorful gardens, and green landscapes, but have you ever considered the workforce it takes to upkeep it? “There is a high demand for these services on the Cape and a huge need for landscaping workers,” says Nick Publicover, Account Manager at E.J. Jaxtimer, one of Cape Cod’s most prominent building companies.

Carol E. Connolly, Director of Adult Education at the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School’s Community School, said groundskeeping is not only a booming industry but also difficult to fill the workforce needed, especially considering seasonal work. In 2022, the school launched a groundskeeping program for adult learners through a grant from the Career Technical Initiative in partnership with E.J. Jaxtimer, Cape Coastal Landscaping, several other employers, and MassHire Cape & Islands Career Center.

“This program was a real eye-opener for our students, our staff, and the employers,” said Connolly. “It was a real breakthrough, and it took a lot of effort to understand this big picture that is horticulture because it’s more than just doing weed whacking. There’s a huge world of enrichment, research, and opportunities.”

The program welcomed 12 adult learners into its first groundskeeping/equipment operation cohort. According to Connolly, many of the participants had previous entry-level experience but had been laid off for the winter. Through a comprehensive curriculum based on local employer needs, the students received a certificate for Landscape Management in Fundamentals and Maintenance from the National Association of Landscape Professionals. The program covered first aid & safety, landscape plan reading & calculations, introduction to irrigation system components & maintenance, landscape equipment safety & maintenance, plants & planting, turf installation, tuft maintenance, pest management, tree & shrub maintenance, and turf equipment safety & operation.



“Employer partners were looking for employees that understand that landscaping, tree work, landscape construction, design, and gardening is a career—and is more than just a summer job,” said Connolly. “The cohort is designed to inspire people to enter the field and provide new skills to landscaping employees traditionally unemployed during the off-season.”

Finding the right candidates who are ready to scale can be tricky. “It has been challenging to find qualified staff members for our roles,” says Kristen Crooker.

Crooker and her husband Warren co-own Cape Coastal Landscaping, a Harwich-based full-service landscaping contractor business whose primary customers are homeowners. The Crookers, who are proud Cape Cod Regional Technical School graduates, completed their staff just in time for peak season by hiring CTI program graduate Malik Kareem Staten Jr.

“Malik was given great base knowledge to enter our landscaping business,” said Kristen Crooker. This program is an excellent addition to our community by utilizing the Cape Cod Tech Facilities after hours and preparing adult learners to enter the workforce.”

Before joining the CTI Program, Malik Kareem Staten Jr. worked in an entry-level landscaping position. He learned about the program through a friend and thought it was an opportunity he could not pass. “I jumped right in. It was the best decision I’ve made in a while,” said Staten. “I enjoyed the diversity of the program and the hands-on training,” he added with much excitement. “I did not realize how big of an industry this was until the program. You can really grow in this area and learn. Everything we learned I was able to apply in real life,” said Staten.



Top: Malik Kareem Staten Jr. as a student in Cape Cod Regional Technical High School's CTI program. Bottom: Staten Jr. diligently working this spring at Cape Coastal Landscaping.

We talked to Staten after work hours as he played basketball at the court just down the street from his home in Yarmouth. He said being home early for his two-year-old daughter, providing for his family, and purchasing his new car are all direct results of his decision to be part of the CTI program. “With this job, I have almost doubled my pay. It has helped a lot,” says Staten. “I can actually provide for my family. I don’t have to work crazy hours, and my employer has been very helpful. I am very blessed.”

Jess Edsall, who lives in East Falmouth, concurs with Staten on what an excellent upskilling opportunity this was for her and her family. Edsall, a CTI program graduate, was successfully hired by E.J. Jaxtimer Builder, a family business offering services in landscaping, custom building, and property management.

As a self-proclaimed ‘lover of plants,’ Edsall had been working in gardening for nine months before joining the CTI program. She said she always loved working outside but assumed she would need a college degree to make a better living wage.

This program, she says, helped her a great deal to understand the field, opened the door to meet her new employer, and she is incredibly grateful for how “great the teachers were, very kind, patient, understanding and caring.” “I love the company I am with now,” she said. “This program helped me feel more confident. It helped me find a better job. It is really rewarding to have a certificate and learn all I learned in a really short period of time,” she added.

Edsall said the training led her to the financial stability she and her husband longed for. “Now I feel more confident to get my family to where they want to be, and it’s a good weight lifted.”



Jess Edsall working at E.J. Jaxtimer Builder.



Staten and Edsall found year-round employment in the landscaping industry on Cape Cod after completing the CTI program. Their success stories highlight the impact of the program in providing individuals with the skills and opportunities needed for long-term career growth and financial stability.

Program outcomes leading to better wages and financial stability while helping Massachusetts' businesses succeed is just a win-win, says Nick Publicover, Account Manager at E.J. Jaxtimer, where Edsall works. Edsall is one of two staff members who were part of the CTI program. "It's so important to provide these opportunities," says Publicover. "For our team members, we have seen how it has built their knowledge and a sense of confidence to speak to higher-end clients knowing what they are talking about, and it reflects greatly on us as a company too. To be able to talk the talk and to do the work is incredibly important and helps us take things to the next level.




As Edsall looks forward to building a career and using some of her new skills in her own house, she says, "I really hope more people can take advantage of this program."

COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

We thank you for your continued support.

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