

My name is Estelle Maggio and I graduated in July 2014 from the Strive-Hartford Program.

I've been informed recently that the budget was cut from this program by the state of CT and I'm quite surprised.

I can honestly say that this program has changed my life for the better. I had been laid off and unemployed for approximately 3 years. It is very discouraging when there are so few jobs to choose from. I felt like an unproductive person just stuck and in need of a way out. The money that I had saved was depleting very quickly. The job market is very competitive and you need newer techniques and mega amounts of motivation to get you started. I had sought to find other avenues but came up short, until a friend of mine recommended that I look into the Strive-Hartford Program. When a program becomes available and you are ready for some big changes to happen, you must go for it. You need to remember that you are striving to become an improved individual. I jumped on the opportunity and contacted Ann Veno, the Director. I left the office feeling a little nervous but excited to finally be involved in getting a new start in life. I am so glad that I did and I tell all my friends about the STRIVE program. The good the bad and the ugly, (and by that I mean how hard the program is to complete). I'm so proud that I attended STRIVE and worked very hard to accomplish what I did.

I have heard stories and seen from my own workshop that the men and women who attend STRIVE make conscious decisions concerning their career paths and job opportunities, not only for themselves but for the families that they love and provide for. They are willing and determined to do better for themselves and their families by completing this program. They improve their motivations, attitudes, and skills to gain successful employment. Please restore funding to the CT STRIVE program so that other participants like me can learn once again to feel secure about their futures and have a better outlook on their lives.

Thank you for the privilege to express my concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Estelle Maggio