

March 2, 2015

Re: SUPPORT funding Platform to Employment through the Department of Labor.

To: The Hon. Beth Bye, Co-Chair, The Hon. Ezequiel Santiago, Co-Chair, The Hon. Clark Chapin, Ranking Member, The Hon. Melissa Ziobron, Ranking Member and members of the Committee

Thank you members of the committee for receiving my testimony in support of Connecticut's Platform to Employment (P2E) program. My experience operating a workforce investment board and the American Job Centers in southwest Connecticut through the recent recession has taught me that long-term unemployment militates against ones chances of finding new employment. It is a barrier preventing workers from competing on an even playing field for open positions.

When hiring in today's labor market, employers are in a position to select from a bounty of highly skilled, well-educated, and cost-effective applicants. Those currently employed or those with short periods of unemployment have an advantage in a competitive marketplace.

Last year the General Assembly created Platform to Employment. The WorkPlace, partnering with the Connecticut department of Labor and the state's four other Workforce Investment Boards is delivering P2E to 500 Connecticut residents this program year. P2E takes active steps to meet the needs of Connecticut employers while providing access to customized re-employment services specially designed for the long-term unemployed including emotional, social, and financial interventions.

Platform to Employment seeks to promote economic self-sufficiency for all individuals who are working to achieve the American dream. In just the first few months of the programs existence we have established vivid evidence that P2E is an effective tool to return people to work. The program is placing 80% of participants into work-experience programs which lead to full-time employment. In the common market only about 30% of long-term unemployed workers find some type of employment after their unemployment benefits run out.

Support for this innovative program will continue to move Connecticut residents back to work.

Regards,



Joe Carbone
President and CEO

Platform to Employment

»» *A WorkPlace Opportunity.*

Returning People To Work

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Here Are The Facts

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in January 32% of unemployed workers were out of work for 6 months or longer. In contrast, during the severe recession of the early 1980s, that number peaked at 26% in 1983.
- Between Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2014: 236,603 Connecticut workers filed an initial unemployment claim. If 32% remain out of work 6 months, then 75,712 Connecticut residents will find themselves without support.
- Reductions in the number of long-term unemployed are deceiving, since many give up looking for work or find part-time work.
- A recent report from the Brookings Institution discovered that even when people find work, only 11% were employed full time for at least 4 months.
- The Connecticut Economic Digest reported in Feb 2014 that wage records indicated that approximately 30% of people who exhausted unemployment benefits recorded *some* level of wages 6 months after exhaustion.
- Platform to Employment seeks to promote economic self-sufficiency for all individuals who are working to achieve the American dream.

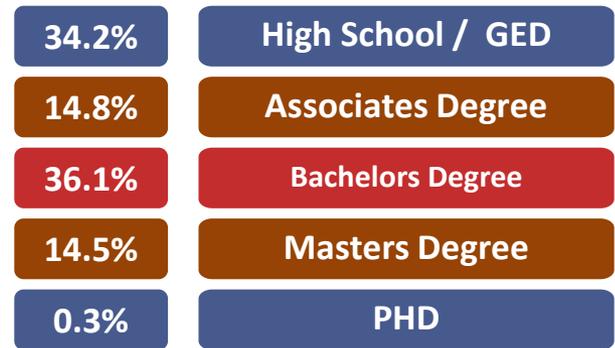
Platform to Employment®

Diverse Backgrounds Being Served

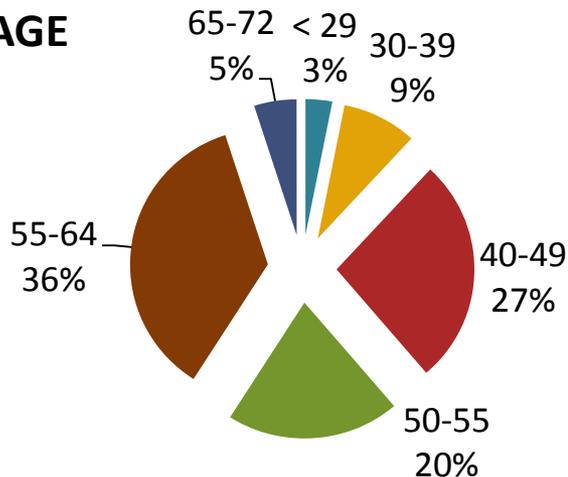
Demographic Summary

- Evenly split between men and women.
- 56% are between the ages of 50 – 64 years old.
- 66% come from households with more than one person.
- 50% have a Bachelors or Masters Degree.
- Prior work experience is a cross section of CT industries.

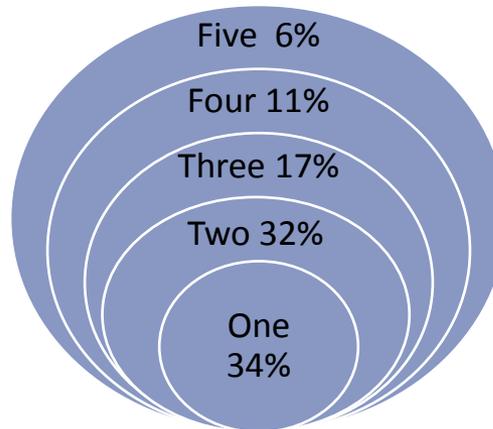
HIGHEST EDUCATION



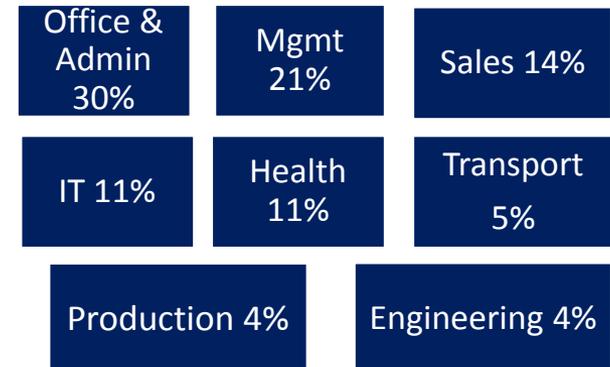
AGE



FAMILY SIZE



Top Prior Industries Of Employment

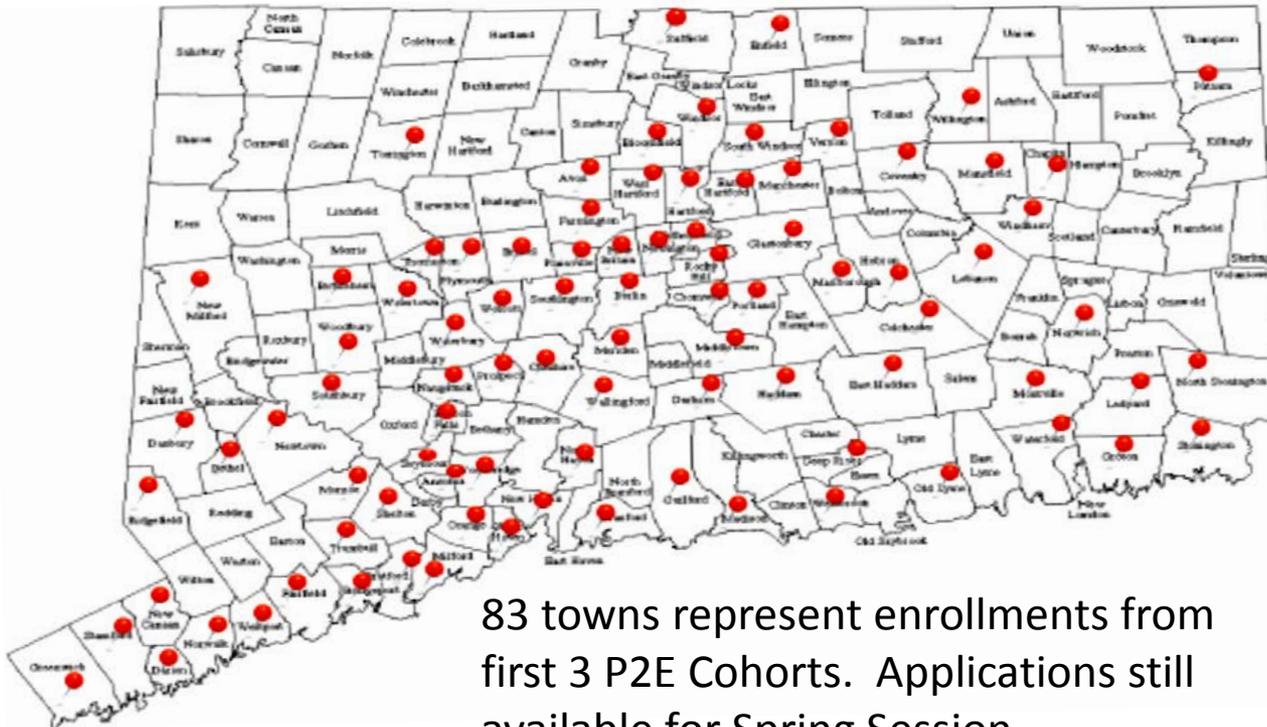


Participants From Across The State

COHORT	Number Completing Preparatory Program	% Enter Work Experience	% Hired So Far
October 2014	90	81%	71%
January 2015	87	51%	52%

NOTE: The work experience lasts 8 weeks before employers decide to hire

1,318 applications received for the first 3 cohorts with **300** seats available



83 towns represent enrollments from first 3 P2E Cohorts. Applications still available for Spring Session.

Your Invited

Cohort 3 Graduation

- March 25th
- 9:00 am
- The Old Judiciary Room
- 12 Participants have landed a Work Experience before graduation

Why Should You Fund P2E?

- ✓ These individuals are not responsible for their predicament as the labor market has experienced structural changes.
- ✓ We have established vivid evidence that there is a solution to return these people to work.
- ✓ Supporting Platform to Employment is a compelling investment to strengthen families and communities.
- ✓ The alternative is Connecticut households becoming poorer and greater demands placed on safety net services.
- ✓ We have a moral obligation to help others and protect the tenet of opportunity for Americans.

Hartford  Courant

CONNECTICUT POST

New Haven Register



The New York Times

The Washington Post

The Atlantic

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