

FY2026

Annual Report



**BERKSHIRE
WORKFORCE BOARD**



BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

2026 Fiscal Year Snapshots



2,500+ youth engaged in
Career Readiness
programs

\$3.5M
leveraged



4,226
job seekers assisted



Innovation Career
15 Pathways in 6
school districts



330+
youth
internships

416



trainees successfully completed
industry training

1,035
employers
served



11 school districts
have Post-Secondary
& Careers Teams

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

David Moresi
Board Chair
Moresi & Associates

Michael Taylor
Vice Chair
City of Pittsfield

Christopher Smith
Vice Chair
Hillcrest Educational Centers

James Brosnan
Treasurer
No. Berkshire Vocational
School District

Beth Petropulos
Assistant Treasurer
MountainOne

Chelsea Robbins
Secretary
Mativ

Albert Ingegneri, III
At-Large
Salisbury Estates

Doug McNally
Youth Council Co-Chair
Frosthollow Associates

Betsy Andrus
So. Berkshire Chamber of Commerce

Monique Blake
Miraval/Cranwell Resort

Teri Billington
General Dynamics

John Cadiz
18 Degrees

Eugene Dellea
Berkshire Health Systems

Deni Evans
Department of Transitional Assistance

Paula Euber
Massachusetts Rehabilitation
Commission

Paul Gage
Pittsfield Adult Learning Center

Tammy Gage
Pittsfield Public Schools

Linda Harrison
General Dynamics Advanced
Information Systems

Libby Hernandez
MA Dept. of Career Services

Ellen Kennedy
Berkshire Community College

Kaylyn Kern
Bousquet Sport

John Maturevic
IUE Local 254-255

Mckayla McGeeney
McGeeney Marketing

Maureen McLaughlin
MillTown Capital

Brian Morrison
Central Labor Council

Amanda Rankin
Carr Hardware

Eva Sheridan
CHP Berkshires

Brenda Stokes
MA College of Liberal Arts

Michele Sweet
Berkshire Health Systems

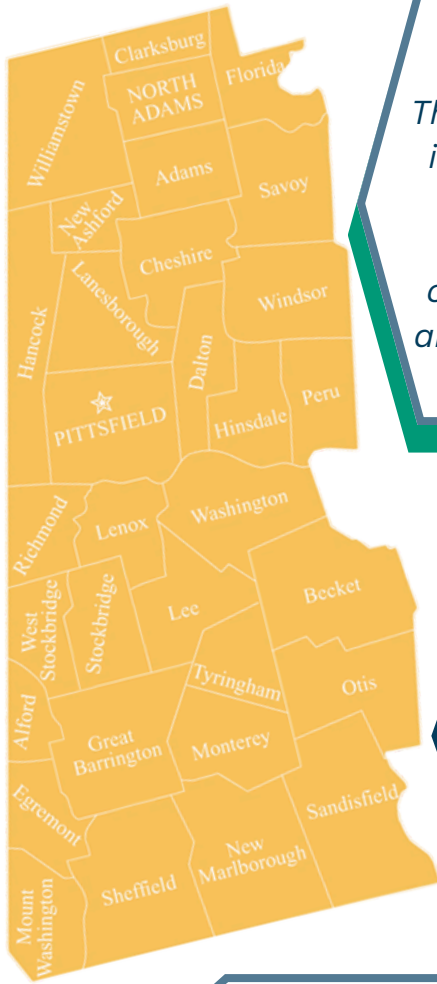
MISSION

To develop partnerships, generate resources, and advocate for workforce solutions that result in a skilled workforce, prospering businesses, and equitable access to meaningful career pathways and quality employment for residents and youth.



VISION

The MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board's vision is a thriving, inclusive, and resilient regional economy where businesses, residents and youth have equitable access to workforce development resources and to quality employment opportunities. We envision a better future for people, youth and businesses of Berkshire County through meaningful work and sustainable growth.



The Berkshire Workforce Board develops policies, allocates resources, oversees programs and is a broker between businesses and education & training providers. Formed in 1983 through the federal Job training and Partnership Act and related state legislation, the Berkshire Workforce Board leads workforce strategies on behalf of the 32 cities and towns in Berkshire County, Mass. Board members are appointed by the Mayor of Pittsfield and represent the makeup of the Berkshire economy, including small/medium sized businesses and a variety of employment sectors.

Workforce Strategies

Business Resource

To be a recognized Labor Market resource and catalyst for innovative workforce development.

Skills Gap

To align resources and engage partners to connect workforce participants with high-demand, high-growth jobs that meet labor market needs.

Pipeline Development

To ensure that youth and the emergent workforce have the academic and core competencies required by employers.

System Enhancement

To position the workforce system to support and align with regional business retention, expansion and job creation efforts.

Industry Training Initiatives

Through labor market research, the Berkshire Workforce Board identifies sector initiatives which design and implement curricula to address industry-wide skill shortages for both new and incumbent workers. The Berkshire Workforce Board and Career Center also assist companies with access to a variety of training programs in order to upgrade the skills of the current workforce.



Advanced Manufacturing

The Berkshire Workforce Board was awarded:

- **\$56,000** from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to support **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** for newly hired unemployed/underemployed residents.
- **16** employees supported with On the Job Training (OJT) at 10 participating companies: BlueQ, Onyx, CordMaster, Interprint, SteinerFilm, Mativ, ComSonics, EMA, ShineWire, and Lenco.

Massachusetts Career Technical Initiative (CTI) develops talent pipelines to meet the skills needs of businesses in high-demand occupations in construction/skilled trades and manufacturing by expanding capacity and leveraging existing facilities and equipment of designated Chapter 74 and CTE Career Connections Programs to provide adult training in evenings and/or weekends to unemployed and underemployed Massachusetts residents.

Career Technical Initiatives

McCann Tech CTI Trainings

- **12** enrolled in the Automotive Technician training, **10** completed, **5** employed
- **12** enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturing training, **8** completed, **7** employed
- **12** enrolled in the Welding training, **9** completed, **4** employed

Taconic CTI Trainings

- **11** enrolled in the Auto Body Repair training, **7** completed, **4** employed
- **12** enrolled in the Landscaping training, **8** completed, **1** employed



Healthcare HUBS

Employer/training partners include **Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Community College, Integritus Healthcare, Community Health Programs, and McCann Tech.**

- **117** enrolled in the Nursing Assistant & Certified Nursing Assistant training, **112** completed, **65** employed
- **46** enrolled in the Medical Assistant trainings, **37** completed, **37** employed
- **6** enrolled in the Phlebotomy training, **6** completed, **3** employed
- **9** enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician training, **6** completed
- **8** enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurses training, **6** completed, **5** employed

Connecting Activities

The Connecting Activities award provided \$334,438 from the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education.

Connecting Activities (CA) is a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) initiative that leverages a statewide infrastructure to support post-secondary and career readiness for all youth. Every public school district in the region has a Post-Secondary & Career Team dedicated to sustaining and enhancing a career readiness 'system' serving all students.

2,500+

Students in K-12 participated in 75+ career awareness & exploration activities

330+

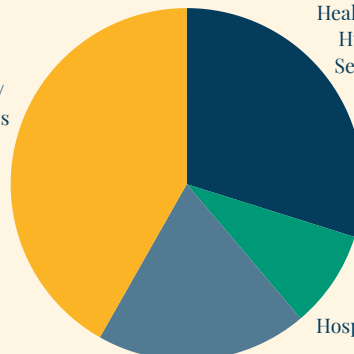
Participated in structured work-based learning opportunities



134

Youth internships were critical sector placements

Construction /
Building Trades
56



Healthcare /
Human
Services
40

Hospitality & Culinary
12

Manufacturing &
Engineering
26



MEET THE YOUTH

on **advice** he would give to other **young people**.

You'll mess up, it's a part of life. You'll make mistakes that might seem like it'll end everything you've worked so hard for, but it won't. There's a difference between the impossible and the rare, once you find that out, life becomes easier because you worry less.



ARES FORREST

Jobs4Youth | Youth Participant

The Berkshire Workforce Board collaborates with schools, employers and the community to expand work-based learning and career readiness opportunities.

190

employers provided youth internships

52%

of employers offered paid opportunities

\$1.7M

in qualifying wages were paid to youth by their employers

Connecting Activities



FY26 Youth Council

Doug McNally* *Co-Chair*
Frosthollow Associates

Bryan House *Co-Chair*
18 Degrees

Monique Blake*
Miraval Berkshires

Kim Chappell
North Adams Public Schools

Jennifer Hoffman
Berkshire Community College

Rebecca Ringer
Pittsfield Adult Learning Center

William Ballen
Berk12

Kaylyn Kern*
Bousquet Sport

Rebecca Lilley
Bliss Crumbs and Coffee

Vincent Marinaro
Community Volunteer; BBE

Kathy Yon
Pittsfield Public Schools

**Board Members*

Pam Wojtkowski
Berkshire Career Center

Kelly Skrocki
Berkshire Career Center

Heather Boulger
Berkshire Workforce Board

Heather Shogry-Williams
Berkshire Workforce Board

Kathleen Toomey
Berkshire Workforce Board

Workforce Impact Awards

2026 MassHire Career Center Workforce Professional Award

Chelsea George, MH Berkshire CC (pictured right)



2026 Employer of the Year

Onyx Specialty Papers (pictured Below)



2026 Youth of the Year

Romelo Holley, Taconic High School (pictured right)



2026 Educators of the year

Kristen Palatt, Erica Girgenti, and Lindsay McGinnis, Hoosac Valley Middle/High School (pictured below)



2026 Berkshire Workforce Board Professional of the Year

Sara Milano, Berkshire Workforce Board (pictured above right)

Berkshire Business Resources

Rapid Response

Working with our state partners to provide layoff aversion and management activities, the Berkshire Rapid Response team assisted **8 companies** impacting **623 employees** during FY26.

Business Development and Partnerships

Working with our statewide partners to offer tax incentives for hiring long-term unemployed and veterans, **Apprenticeship** programs, **on-the-job training**, incentive programs, occupational services, safety grants and more. Collaborating with more than 20 statewide and 50 regional partners.



Adult & Community Learning Services (ACLS)

ACLS stewards a public adult education system that puts no-cost quality instruction, advising, job training and career pathways within reach of all adult learners.

- **Northern Berkshire Adult Education** provided **51** students with adult education (ABE) and **65** students with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). NBAE also opened official HiSET testing center at the North Adams Armory and assisted **11** students with the testing process.
 - MassSTEP Culinary Program with McCann Tech had **7** students participate, of which **5** completed the program and **3** were hired in the field.
 - The MassSTEP CNA Program with Integritus Healthcare had **10** students participate, with **8** completing the program and **6** securing employment in the field.
- **Berkshire Community College** Adult ESOL program assisted **189** English language learners with an average monthly enrollment of **144**.
- **Pittsfield Adult Learning Center** served **218** ABE students and **161** ESOL students with their adult education career development **379** total students served; **40** estimated graduates.
- **The Berkshire County Sheriff's Office** provided ABE services to **66** students to help them successfully transition.

Recognizing and promoting the importance of our 125 Berkshire manufacturing companies through marketing, OJTs and training opportunities. BCREB promoted Manufacturing Month activities with company tours and marketing.



Priority Industries & Occupations

Berkshire Workforce Blueprint: Priority Industries and Occupations

Working in collaboration with our workforce, economic, and educational partners, MassHire Berkshire leads the region in shaping policy, practice, and funding decisions related to workforce initiatives. In FY26, training programs were implemented within each of our priority sectors.

Hospitality, Culinary, Management & Trades

Chefs, Management, Trades

Health Care & Social Assistance

Nurses & Nurse Aids, Allied Health

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering

Machinists, Engineers, Management

Additional Critical Industries

Education & Childcare, IT, Business & Finance, Creative Economy

2025 Berkshire Workforce Blueprint—Priority Industries & Occupations

Health Care & Social Assistance

31-1120 Home Health and Personal Care Aides
31-9092 Medical Assistants
31-1131 Nursing Assistants
29-2061 Licensed Practical Nurses
31-9092 Registered Nurses

21-1094 Community Health Worker
21-1020 Social Workers
29-2042 Emergency Medical Technicians
31-9097 Phlebotomists
29-2034 Radiologic Technicians
29-2072 Medical Records Specialist
29-1292 Dental Hygienists

Hospitality, Culinary & Management

35-2021 Food Preparation Workers
35-1101 Chefs and Head Cooks
11-9051 Food Service Managers
11-1021 General & Operations Managers
43-3031 Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering

51-4041 Machinists
49-9041 Industrial Machinery Mechanics
51-9196 Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders
51-9061 Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers

17-2051 Civil Engineers
17-2141 Mechanical Engineers
12-2112 Industrial Engineers
17-2071 Electrical Engineers
12-2061 Computer Hardware Engineers

Clean Energy & Trades

49-9071 Maintenance and Repair Workers
47-2061 Construction Laborers
49-9021 HVAC and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
47-2031 Carpenters
47-2111 Electricians
47-2152 Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
53-3032 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
49-3023 Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics

Education & Childcare

39-9011 Childcare Workers
25-2010 Preschool Teachers
25-2020 Elementary/Middle Teachers
25-2030 Secondary Teachers
25-2050 Special Education
25-9045 Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary



Additional Critical Industries

Business and Finance

Creative Economy
(Arts, Entertainment & Recreation)

Information Technology

MassHire Berkshire Career Center

Workforce services are primarily provided by the MassHire Berkshire Career Center, located in Pittsfield. Services provided to customers include:

CAREER RELATED
WORKSHOPS

JOB SEARCH AND
PLACEMENT

CAREER
COUNSELING

WORKSHOPS

OCCUPATIONAL
SKILLS TRAINING

ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

RESOURCE ROOM

The Career Center operates under a Charter designed by the Berkshire Workforce Board and Mayor of Pittsfield to drive excellence in service to local companies and individuals. Current goals in the existing Charter include improved services to youth and businesses, improved access by disadvantaged residents to workforce services and increased use of data to drive performance. Services are provided at the North Adams Public Library weekly and in South County as needed.

Career Center FY26 Numbers

4,226 Customers Served	1,035 Employers Served
469 Customers Entered Employment	337 New Employers
\$26.85/hour: Entered Employment Average Wage	442 Advanced Services Provided
139 Veterans Assisted	128 Recruitments
	982 Outreach Activities

WIOA helps job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need.

Title 1 Adult Program Outcomes

- **24** total customers served
- **9** entered employment at an average hourly wage of \$26.85
- **16** customers entered training

Title 1 Dislocated Worker Program Outcomes

- **50** total customers served
- **24** entered employment at an hourly wage of \$24.08
- **19** customers entered training

Title 1 Out-of-School Youth Program Outcomes

- **42** total customers served
- **14** customers attained HiSet / GED diploma
- **23** entered training, employment and/or post-secondary education

Workforce Strategies

As an economic engine for the region, the Berkshire Workforce Board and Career Center view both companies and job seekers as primary customers. The Berkshire Workforce System has made a concerted effort to better assist local businesses with their workforce needs. The Business Services Unit was formed to specially target reaching out to and assisting companies with their employment and training needs. The Berkshire Career Center provides a variety of services including job recruitments, access to training, job and career fairs, employer workshops and more.

