

Metro North Workforce Resiliency Fund: Impact Report

April 2024



In 2021, MassHire Metro North Workforce Board's (MNWB) Work to THRIVE initiative received a \$50,000 donation of unrestricted funds from CVS Health through their social justice and equity initiative. The funds were used to create the Metro North Workforce Resiliency Fund to support job seekers with "wrap-around services" in the Cities of Revere, Chelsea, Everett and Malden. These funds were administered by The Neighborhood Developers (TND)/CONNECT starting on July 1, 2021.

The overarching goal of this funding was to support the financial security of individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as they sought to retain jobs, find new jobs and enter job training. The fund assisted with supports such as childcare, transportation, digital access, school supplies, tools, housing support, and driver's licenses.

\$40,267.72

DISTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

125

TOTAL REQUESTS APPROVED BY CONNECT COACHES

93

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

Client Demographics

70% lived in Chelsea



Other communities supported included: Revere (19%), Everett (10%), & Malden (1%)



65% of clients' first language was Spanish.

Additional languages included English, Portuguese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, and French.

66% had an annual income less than \$25K

46%

Employed part-time and 31% were unemployed.

Average family size was 2.6 people

Uses of the 125 Requests



Education (42%)

ESOL/ABE courses, tuition, & job training



Transportation (31%)

MBTA passes, gas, car repairs



Technology (22%)

Laptops, internet



General Support (6%)

Rent/eviction support, T-labor visa, clothing

Success Stories

The CONNECT Career Coach collected client stories on how this funding helped them gain employment and stabilize their financial situation. These are just a few of those stories.

With help from the resiliency fund, Gabriela (not her real name) was **able to cover the cost of the books, supplies, and tuition for her citizenship class and ESOL course.** Showing great determination, she passed her citizenship exam. The **funding covered a portion of her attorney's fees enabling her to address her immigration status, as well as that of her husband and 11-year-old son.** Now, all three family members are legalized, and both adults are working full time, something they had not be able to do with their previous immigration status.

“
I now have many plans and goals, and my future feels so much brighter!
-Gabriela
”



With \$1,201 from the fund, CONNECT **helped two unemployed Spanish-speaking newcomers get established as full-time Door Dash delivery persons.** Electric bike, helmet, insulated backpack, and phone mount were purchases for each individual, enabling them to immediately start delivering food for Door Dash.

“
...Giving me hope and an incentive to invest in myself for the betterment of my family
-KM on the financial assistance received
”

KM is a mother of two school-aged children whose husband died of cancer just before the pandemic. During the pandemic, she accessed unemployment supports, affording her time to plan for a stronger financial future. Along with participation in other financial programming, **she used the resiliency funding to enroll in a nursing refresher course.** With family support, **KM is now able to work as an overnight nurse with a good salary.**

Future of the Work Force Resiliency Fund

Many community members continue to be stretched thin financially and struggle to find and retain jobs and to participate in training programs. MNWB seeks to continue this Fund and is currently looking for more opportunities to provide the same flexibility as the CVS Health funding.

Acknowledgements

- Rick Laferriere and CVS Health for the donation, providing community members with the necessary supports.

♥ **CVS**Health.

- TND/CONNECT for supporting the community members and distributing the funds.

