

## **Benefits to Businesses through Our Referral Partners**

Our referral partners are important to the successful implementation of our Employment and Training Agreement (ETAG) established between CEI and our financed job generating companies. Many of our community and state partners support new and dislocated workers to transition into existing and newly created jobs.

CEI works closely with most of Maine's public education and training programs and institutions. These include the Maine Department of Labor CareerCenters and Vocational Rehabilitation, Maine Technical College System, community adult education centers, Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community, Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health & Human Services ASPIRE program (the agency's work training program) to name a few. Many of these organizations also collaborate together to leverage resources and to prepare low-income individuals, those with barriers to employment, and those at risk of poverty, for employment.

Whether a dislocated worker, an individual transitioning off welfare, a person with a disability, a person seeking a better employment opportunity, or a refugee, most are eager to find employment that leads to further skill development, income, assets, and ultimately self-sufficiency. Hiring these individuals can be a strategic and positive business decision. They are motivated to learn new skills, be productive, and contribute to your company's mission and effectiveness. CEI, as well as several of the sponsoring organizations provide a variety of benefits to hiring businesses.

### **Advertise your job openings for free**

List your job vacancies with CEI. We will broadcast the opening to employment, training and educational institutions and programs located in close your business that can refer qualified candidates. In addition to CEI, if you choose, the CareerCenters can advertise job openings on Maine's Job Bank for you.

### **Wage reimbursement**

Many of our referral partners provide a 50% wage reimbursement over a period of time for job seekers referred to your business to help compensate for costs associated with training a person on the job. CEI will assist you access this benefit if the selected job candidate is referred by an entity that offers this compensation.

### **Customized Skills Training**

A business may be eligible for training assistance tailored to meet your company's specific needs. This may be accessed several ways. Generally, training for targeted populations is at the heart of some of our workforce development projects. Businesses who participate in these projects contribute to the training design, ensuring that elements of the training program include skills that you require in those that you hire.

The State of Maine also funds training for eligible Maine businesses. Program staff can provide you with information and help your business complete an application for training assistance. ([LINK TO GTI](#))

If you, or a consortium of businesses, plan to hire at least 8 or more individuals, the Maine's Technical College System recruits for and trains potential hires through a program, the Maine Quality Center, that you help plan. Our staff can connect you with one of our partners at the Community College closest to your business.

### **Field Training/Internship experience**

The Department of Health & Human Services administers a program which allows individuals who lack significant work experience, and are transitioning off state assistance, to work 13 to 26 weeks/20 hours of per week to learn additional skills and gain valuable experience. There is no cost to the employer and is a great opportunity to assess a potential candidate for a job in your organization.

### **Supported Employment**

This is an opportunity for business and industry to effectively hire people with disabilities or with other barriers to employment. Program services through the Maine Department of Labor Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and other private entities, include professional job coaching, modification of workplace work tasks, job matches, and company and disabled worker education.