STATE FUNDS THAT SUPPORT THE PUBLIC WORKFORCE SYSTEM

The Massachusetts Workforce Association is a statewide membership association that lead, convenes and advocates on behalf of the 16 regional workforce boards and 28 career centers.

MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE

The following three line items directly flow through our 16 regional workforce boards and 28 career centers across the Commonwealth

Supporting the Public Workforce Development Infrastructure

CAREER CENTER LINE ITEM (7003-0803)
FY26 REQUEST: $9,860,450

This line item helps fund the MassHire Career Centers across the Commonwealth.
The Career Center line item is the one source of funding that is flexible enough to allow for each of the 16 workforce boards to address specific local needs, in collaboration with the individual Career Centers in their region. Historically there are challenges that arise both regionally and across the Commonwealth that stress the workforce system. These challenges do not necessarily coincide with the timing of allocation distributions. The Career Center monies are the flexible dollars that the system can use to be nimble enough to react to those situations without waiting for additional allocations.

Supporting Youth Workforce Development & Career Readiness

YOUTHWORKS (7002-0012)
FY26 REQUEST: $20,000,000

YouthWorks is a state-funded youth employment program that helps teens and young adults develop the skills and experience needed to find and keep jobs. Participants take part in paid short-term work placements during the summer and/or school year at public, private, and nonprofit work sites. As part of the program, they receive training in core soft skills, practice professional behavior and learn how to work effectively with supervisors, co-workers, and customers at their work sites.

SCHOOL TO CAREER CONNECTING ACTIVITIES (7027-0019)
FY26 REQUEST: $8,000,000

School-to-Career Connecting Activities is a state-funded education and youth employment initiative designed to generate employer-paid jobs, internships, and career exploration activities for high school students. Connecting Activities funds the work necessary to recruit employers and to identify, prepare, and match students with these work-based learning opportunities. MassHire Workforce Boards collaborate with employers to promote skill development at the workplace and with schools and school districts to support career pathways in high schools and career-connected learning in the classroom