MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE

Massachusetts Workforce Association
2025/2026 Legislative Agenda

The Massachusetts Workforce Association (MWA) is a statewide membership association that leads, advocates, and convenes on behalf of the Massachusetts workforce system. We provide a unified voice for the state's regionally-led workforce development system to ensure it is responsive to the dynamic demands of businesses, job seekers, incumbent workers, and youth throughout the Commonwealth.

MWA's priority Areas of Focus:

Responsive and Fully Funded Public Workforce System:

- Fully Funding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act at the Federal level, and prioritizing WIOA Reauthorization.
- Consistent and adequate funding for MassHire Career Centers through state Career Center Line Item funding to ensure the "front line" of the workforce system has sufficient funding to serve jobseekers and Employers.
- Consistent and adequate funding for state programs that directly support Regional Workforce Boards and youth workforce development programs, specifically the YouthWorks Line Item and School-to-Career Connecting Activities.
- An integrated data system that enables workforce professionals to effectively share and manage programs and performance/outcomes with partners and stakeholders, and that supports job matching capabilities across the Commonwealth.
- Monitoring and adapting to changes to Federal policy and working with the Commonwealth to ensure a strong public workforce system.

Innovation, Training, and Apprenticeship:

- Scaling up and ensuring long-term adequate funding for proven job training programs.
- Expanding apprenticeships, with a particular focus on diverse and underserved populations and non-traditional occupations.
- Leveraging and understanding the role of technology and artificial intelligence and its impact on the future of work, and leveraging new technology to offer innovative job training.

Supports for Overcoming Barriers to Employment:

- Fully funded and well-functioning unemployment insurance system, including supports for Career Centers to serve and assist unemployed customers.
- Programs and policies that promote economic mobility and opportunities for all, including flexible funding that mitigates cliff effects and funding for wrap around services, including child care, transportation, housing, food, and unemployment insurance.

Employer Engagement and Partnerships:

- Support and ally with sector partnerships between education, employers, and workforce development system to ensure responsive and coordinated services for employers.
- Highlighting and prioritizing state & regional blueprints to focus on priority sectors across the Commonwealth.
- Increase awareness of and engagement with the MassHire workforce system as a resource to train unemployed and underemployed individuals and address employer workforce needs.