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Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Workforce Alliance Celebrate \$2.5 Million CAREER Dislocated Worker Grant

Funding provides expanded statewide access and accessibility to employment and training assistance through virtual platforms and technology

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - October 7, 2021 -- Representative Rosa DeLauro was joined by local workforce development leaders and job training participants to celebrate the United States Department of Labor's CAREER Dislocated Worker Grant. The \$2.5 million award to Workforce Alliance, Inc. will be shared by the state's five workforce boards and improve access to employment and training assistance for job seekers including online learning and career exploration opportunities and expanded awareness of workforce services among marginalized communities with all levels of digital literacy and access.

"As the Chair of the Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee that is charged with overseeing the funding for the Department of Labor, I am thrilled that Workforce Alliance is a recipient of a CAREER Dislocated Grant," said Congresswoman DeLauro. "This funding supports successful re-entry into the workforce for Connecticut residents who are out of work due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As our community continues pandemic recovery efforts, Workforce Alliance is doing critical work to provide life skills and job training to people seeking employment. I remain committed to ensuring that federal funds are used to support Connecticut's workers and build back a stronger and more inclusive economy. This grant is a step in that direction."

"The pandemic showed us that we needed to modify and improve the technology that allows remote services, but also revealed how much more we need to do to increase awareness of the public workforce system especially for those who don't have access to technology," said Bill Villano, President and CEO of Workforce Alliance, one of five workforce boards in Connecticut. "This grant means that technology and access can be consistent across the state."

Job trainee Yosef Shtierman shared his perspective during the event. "I was part of the Building Pathways Program, it's a 12-week pre-apprenticeship program to get students involved in different skills and trades. I was lucky enough to be accepted and it was very beneficial to me. I worked with many different people that I would have never been able to work with without this program. It was half virtual and half in person and working with my instructors virtually and in person was equally beneficial. I was able to connect with students as well as my instructors. I can't thank them enough. Without this starting point, I wouldn't be able to further my career in the trades. I've gained certificates and skills and am on my way to a career in the plumbing field that I've chosen."

This CAREER National Dislocated Worker Grant is a two-year grant and one of 29 awards nationwide to help connect job seekers to employment as the economy continues to recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants fund a range of reemployment services that support job seekers with search assistance, career guidance and childcare and transportation costs. Recipients may deliver training services in classroom, virtual or work-based settings. They may also use grants to develop or upgrade virtual services, online platforms, data structures and other technological improvements to enable accessibility and capacity to support job seekers.

About Workforce Alliance

Workforce Alliance is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce in South Central CT, which comprises 30 towns. Board members include business owners, local elected officials and community leaders in order to meet changing local needs and shifting national economic and workforce trends. Workforce Alliance oversees four American Job Center South Central CT locations in New Haven, Meriden, Middletown and Hamden. For more information visit workforcealliance.biz

South Central CT includes 30 towns: Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge.

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