

## **Career Services Meeting Minutes - 6/23/25**

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### **Program Updates:**

The group discussed at length the impact of federal policy changes on people they are serving, specifically including:

- canceled legal status and loss of work authorization for people from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela. CHD reported families who have recently moved from shelter into new apartments and have lost the ability to work. Totally devastating - their ability to stay housed is at serious risk.
- employers are less comfortable hiring employees from other countries overall for fear of sudden termination due to federal policies (notably, veterans who are predominantly white in this area are finding employment more quickly as a result)
- immigrants are less comfortable going to career centers or ESOL classes for fear of detention; seeing a decline in their use of these resources
- Pell Grants are at risk - if cut, it will devastate community colleges
- Many community college students are living in fear of being targeted by the federal government - very limited resources available to assist them
- Free community college - and the fear that this resource will disappear - likely means higher enrollment - this is good but for the fact that there are not sufficient resources to add any staff to support these additional students - colleges feeling the stress of that
- Job Corps program is facing threat of closure (currently in the courts); would cost housing and employment program for approx. 200 people in western MA alone (there are 5 Job Corps programs in the state) and create massive instability

We agreed that staying connected and informed and ready to act as a Network is key during this time - be sure to [subscribe to the Network blog](#) and join 900 others in being connected!

In brighter news:

- MassHire Holyoke and MassHire Springfield are providing orientations in Haitian Creole
- MassHire Berkshire stepped in in the face of Habitat for Humanity's defunding and used WIOA funding to support job training - great partnership

Upcoming opportunities:

- MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center sponsoring Mature Workers Month in July (now considering renaming as "Older Adult Worker Month). Hosting a month long series of workshops and events for mature workers culminating with Job/Resource Fair on 7/31 at the Career Center from 10:00am-12:00pm
- MHSpringfield is partnering with UMASS and Refugee for employment for Success project. The program recruits and provides initial training to ESOL employees

introducing them to the world of culinary. Please check our website for registration options

- MassHire Springfield hosting Healthcare Job Fair June 30, 1pm - 3pm. [www.masshirespringfield.org](http://www.masshirespringfield.org) and at the top of the page is a link for the listing of employers and positions available

**Network updates:**

- FY26 State Budget is in Conference Committee - go here to learn more and weigh in
- Federal budget organizational sign-on letter to stop the housing cuts - [go here to sign!](#)
- The Network's Annual Gathering on May 30: [go here](#) to get caught up on the news and the energy!

**Next Quarterly Meeting Date: Monday, September 15, 11 am**