

Work Based Learning and Training

Investment: \$1MM (VDOL base budget)

Combines the current internship and returnship programs within the Department with this increased investment to support Vermont's workforce and employers through:

- Funding paid 6-to-12-week work-based learning and training opportunities
- Targeting individuals graduating from post-secondary or secondary CTE program, individuals navigating a career change or need pre-employment support and connecting them work paid work experiences.
- Further enhancing Vermont JobLink to detail work-based learning and training (WBLT) opportunities.
- Providing employers with technical assistance to develop and implement meaningful WBLT programs that lead to full-time employment.

Regional Workforce Expansion

Investment: \$2.7MM (one-time over two years)

Two-year pilot that places (6) workforce expansion specialists in Barre, Bennington, Brattleboro, St. Albans, Rutland and St. Johnsbury regions to focus on workforce expansion by:

- Bridging gap to help job seekers, current and future CTE students to support recruitment and retention.
- Connecting "supply" (workers) and "demand" (employers) in real time.
- Developing locally tailored resources, shared labor market information and coordinate regional strategies.
- Provide technical assistance to employers to help tailor work to attract talent.
- Work in collaboration with ACCD and regional partners on relocation work to provide career counseling, employment and non-employment referrals, spearhead out-of-state recruitment efforts, support program organizational design and implementation efforts.

Apprenticeship Program Expansion

Investment: \$1MM (carry-forward)

During the 2021 session, the legislature appropriated \$2MM to the Department for apprenticeship expansion activities. To date, the Department has not fully spent this appropriation and is seeking to carry forward up to \$1MM for the following work:

- Reimburse employers for the cost incurred for work tools and personal protective equipment for new apprentices (up to \$300 per participant).
- Continue the work to expand registered apprenticeship programs and participants.

The Workforce Development Division has hired an Assistant Director to oversee the Apprenticeship Program. With this, the Department is confident that this money can be invested to bring new energy to the Apprenticeship program at a crucial time in Vermont's COVID recovery.