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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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Feedba

BOSTON, MA — Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the awarding of \$2.898 million in Small Business Direct Access Program grants from the Workforce Training Fund. The Workforce Training Fund provides grants to pay for incumbent worker training projects that improve the productivity and competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses, and increase opportunities for workers. The Workforce Training Fund is a program of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and is administered by Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public state agency that fosters partnerships between industry, education, and workforce organizations.

“These grants have been instrumental in allowing small businesses across Massachusetts to upskill their employees and help the Commonwealth to close pressing skills gaps in our growing economy,” noted Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Rosalin Acosta.

Most grants from the Workforce Training Fund are \$1-to-\$1 matching grants awarded when individual businesses apply for grants to pay for larger scale training projects. In the Small Business Direct Access Program, Commonwealth Corporation competitively awards grants to qualified training organizations to fund seats in high-demand training for employees from hundreds of small Massachusetts businesses. Participating businesses simply enroll employees in available courses and send employees to training that is completed on company time. Small businesses that do not have the capacity to apply for a larger grant can directly access training via this streamlined model.

Dr. J.D. LaRock, President and CEO of Commonwealth Corporation said “We are excited about the opportunity to partner with more small businesses to meet their workforce skill needs. Massachusetts’ economic strength is tied directly to small businesses’ success in an increasingly competitive economy.”

Commonwealth Corporation sought proposals for the Small Business Direct Access Program from training organizations that demonstrated expertise, past performance and capacity to provide high-quality training in select topics in high demand among businesses. Applicants proposed to deliver training in categories such as: process improvement and quality assurance, non-technical professional skills (e.g. MS Office,

digital marketing tools), industry-specific or technical skills (e.g. machining, green construction), English for speakers of other languages, supervisory skills, and others.

The following is a complete list of the training providers awarded Workforce Training Fund Grants today:

- American Graphics Institute was awarded \$125,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.
- Associated Industries of Massachusetts was awarded \$150,000 to provide training in Leadership/Management/Supervisory Skills through 2020.
- BEST Hospitality Training was awarded \$54,000 to provide training in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Skills through 2020.
- Bristol Community College was awarded \$121,600 to provide training in Management/Supervisory/Leadership Skills through 2020.
- Cape Cod Community College was awarded \$171,000 to provide training in Interpersonal/Soft Skills through 2020.
- Employers Association of the Northeast was awarded \$100,000 to provide training in Leadership/Management/Supervisory Skills through 2020.
- Exceeda Consulting, Inc. was awarded \$100,000 to provide training in Process Improvement & Quality Assurance Skills through 2020.
- Greenfield Community College was awarded \$55,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.

- Imagine That was awarded \$35,000 to provide training for Profession/Industry Specific & Technical Skills through 2020.
- Jewish Vocational Service was awarded \$138,000 to provide training in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Skills through 2020.
- Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation was awarded \$80,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.
- Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership was awarded \$150,000 to provide training in Process Improvement & Quality Assurance Skills through 2020.
- Mount Wachusett Community College was awarded \$123,750 to provide training in Process Improvement & Quality Assurance Skills through 2020.
- National Training Associates was awarded two grants totaling \$200,000 to provide training in Professional/Industry Specific & Technical Skills and Process Improvement Skills through 2020.
- North Shore Community College, Division of Corporate and professional Education was awarded \$150,000 to provide training in Supervisory/Leadership Skills through 2020.
- Northern Essex Community College was awarded \$142,313 to provide training in Leadership/Management/Supervisory Skills through 2020.
- Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston was awarded \$100,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.

- Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation was awarded \$75,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.
- Quality Support Group was awarded \$60,940 to provide training in Process Improvement and Quality Assurance Skills through 2020.
- Quinsigamond Community College was awarded \$143,040 to provide training in Interpersonal/Soft Skills through 2020.
- Strategic Management Resources was awarded \$99,225 to provide training in Management/Supervisory/Leadership Skills through 2020.
- Tech Foundry was awarded \$75,000 to provide training in Non-Technical Professional Skills through 2020.
- The Center for Manufacturing Technology was awarded \$200,000 to provide training in Profession/Industry Specific & Technical Skills through 2020.
- The Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership was awarded \$150,000 to provide training in Process Improvement & Quality Assurance Systems Skills through 2020.
- U.S. Green Building Council - Massachusetts Chapter was awarded \$100,000 to provide training in Profession/Industry Specific & Technical Skills through 2020.

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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EOLWD manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

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