



Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

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Philadelphia Works Opens West Philadelphia Integrated PA CareerLink® Center

Agency highlights new online career tools, increased community partnerships and a first-of-its-kind West Philadelphia Youth Hub

PHILADELPHIA- Philadelphia Works, the city's workforce development board, today joined with City of Philadelphia Commerce Director Harold T. Epps, PA Secretary of Labor & Industry Kathy Manderino, elected officials and other city and state representatives to celebrate the opening of the new integrated PA CareerLink® Center located at 3901 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. This new center in West Philadelphia is the fourth of four new integrated PA CareerLink® centers now operating in convenient locations across the city.

"This final center opening is the culmination of our efforts over the past 3 years to completely reinvent the public workforce system for a 21st century economy," said Mark Edwards, President and CEO of Philadelphia Works. "Our new integrated centers are the future of workforce service delivery for employers and job seekers alike. And we are readying the launch of several digital components that will bring interactive career services directly to job seekers wherever they may be, whether on their mobile device, in their local community centers or right here at a PA CareerLink® Philadelphia career center."

The new PA CareerLink® Philadelphia centers ensure 'one-stop shopping' for employers and career seekers alike, who can now receive comprehensive career placement services that connect qualified talent to open jobs. Career seekers can expect one-on-one career counseling, resume development and expanded workshops to assist with improving workplace skills that will make them more competitive in the job market. Employers can utilize candidate screening and hiring services including on-site hiring events, access to customized on-the-job training subsidies and other HR solutions that are designed to give small businesses the tools they need to make informed and cost-effective decisions to grow their business.

"We are excited to see what this new center will bring to the residents and business community of West and Southwest Philadelphia," said Mayor Jim Kenney. "The tremendous resurgence of University City over the past decade has now given way to the promise of economic prosperity for all corners of West Philadelphia. From Mantua to Cobbs Creek and Parkside to Paschalville, employers and career seekers now have a single, comprehensive hub where they can get connected."

In addition to the on-site resources, career seekers will also be able to take advantage of a wide array of new virtual training programs via the PA CareerLink® Philadelphia website. The new “Virtual One Stop” is an interactive online learning environment that offers free career advice, job leads, training, and resources to help career seekers advance their prospects in a fun, game-like interface. PA CareerLink® Philadelphia also now features an expanded social media presence, including a new a new YouTube channel with informative video tutorials. Philadelphia Works is currently developing a mobile-friendly web presence for PA CareerLink® Philadelphia for increased interaction with customers who are on-the-go.

Improved virtual programming will be complemented by a new Community Connections program involving eight community based organizations (CBOs) throughout the city who have signed agreements to partner with PA CareerLink® to offer services in their neighborhoods. These agreements facilitate the referral process to and from PA CareerLink® centers and the CBOs, training of CBO staff and on-site delivery of PA CareerLink® workshops, and the opportunity for CBOs to provide services at PA CareerLink® centers. Partners include The Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia KEYSPOts, Philadelphia OIC, Opportunities Inc, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, Connections for Humanity, Diversified Community Services and the Philadelphia Unemployment Project.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of the new West Philadelphia Center is the integration of a new, first-of-its-kind “Youth and Young Adult Opportunity Hub”. The Hub will connect youth with limited or no work experience to year-round and part-time job opportunities and expose them to career pathways through workshops and personalized counseling. This project will target youth and young adults ages 16-24 who live or attend school in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, with the goal of serving 250 youth over two years. Additionally, the Hub will serve as a pilot program to develop replicable and scalable strategies to better connect youth in Philadelphia to quality jobs with family-sustaining wages. The Hub is funded by a \$2 million grant from the US Department of Labor’s Career Pathways, “Summer Jobs and Beyond” program.

Over the course of the past year, three additional PA CareerLink® centers have relocated and are currently serving job seekers from across the city. The other locations include: 1617 JFK Boulevard, serving Center City and South Philadelphia; and 5847 Germantown Avenue serving Northwest Philadelphia; and 4261 North 5th Street, serving North Philadelphia, the river wards and Northeast Philadelphia.

The new integrated PA CareerLink® Centers are operated by a consortium of workforce partners that include contracted service providers, L&I, PA Department of Human Services and the L&I Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

About Philadelphia Works

Philadelphia Works is the city’s Workforce Development Board, investing in solutions and services to grow Philadelphia’s economy by connecting employers to workforce talent and career seekers to jobs. We influence the public policies that support economic growth, and optimize funding and resources to invest in regional solutions to build a skilled and thriving workforce. For more information about our dedicated board members and staff, workforce research, labor market data, services and initiatives, and to view success stories, please visit <http://www.philaworks.org>.

