

# COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

Employment Program for Young  
Adults with Disabilities

April 28, 2025



# INTRODUCTION



## Aadil Sulaiman

Vice President, Youth and Justice Programs

✉ [asulaiman@commcorp.org](mailto:asulaiman@commcorp.org)

Oversees:

- Re-Entry Program
- Safe & Successful Youth Initiative
- SkillUp
- Young Adults with Disabilities
- YouthWorks



## Kayla Johnson

Youth and Justice Cross-Program Manager

✉ [kjohnson@commcorp.org](mailto:kjohnson@commcorp.org)

Supports grantees by:

- Creating contracts
- Processing invoices and contracts
- Running community of practice sessions
- Providing technical assistance

# AGENDA

- Background on Grant Program
- Key Elements of Program Design
- PY 24 Data
- PY 25 Data / Current Grantees
- Questions?

## Background on 'Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities'

For the Commonwealth Corporation for an employment training program for unemployed young adults with disabilities; provided, that funds shall be awarded competitively by the Commonwealth Corporation to community-based organizations with recognized success in creating strong collaborations with employers to consider young adults with disabilities; and provided further, that a community-based organization that receives funding under this item shall provide extensive training, internship programming, and ongoing post-placement support for participants and employers

Massachusetts General Appropriation Act Line Item 7003-0607 History						
Fiscal Year	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26*
Appropriation Amount	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000*

\* - latest available FY26 state budget proposal as of 4/19/25

## KEY ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM DESIGN

- Occupational skills training directly related to demand occupations identified by the employer partners
- Work experience (such as internships)
- Job development and placement in unsubsidized, paid positions
- Post-placement support
- Coaching and case management
- Support services and resources as needed to participate in training and transition to work

### TARGET POPULATION

#### YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

*As described by the following criteria:*

- Unemployed or underemployed and,
- Have a diagnosed disability and,
- Between 18 and 35 years old and,
- Not enrolled in high school as of program start (may or may not have previously earned a high school diploma or HiSET/GED)

## 2024 AND 2025 PROGRAM YEAR

Program Year 2024 – 5 Month Program Year

February 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

Program Year 2025 – 12 Month Program Year

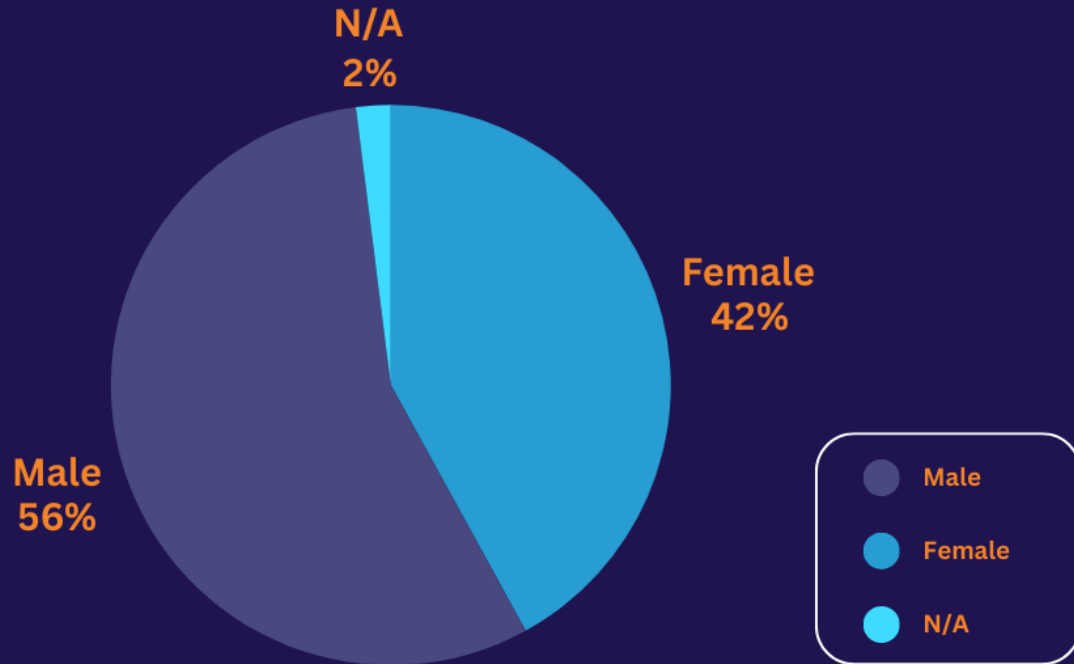
January 21, 2025 – December 31, 2025

# PY 2024 ENROLLMENT DATA

Count of all Participants	Count of Unemployed	Count of Underemployed
141	113	18

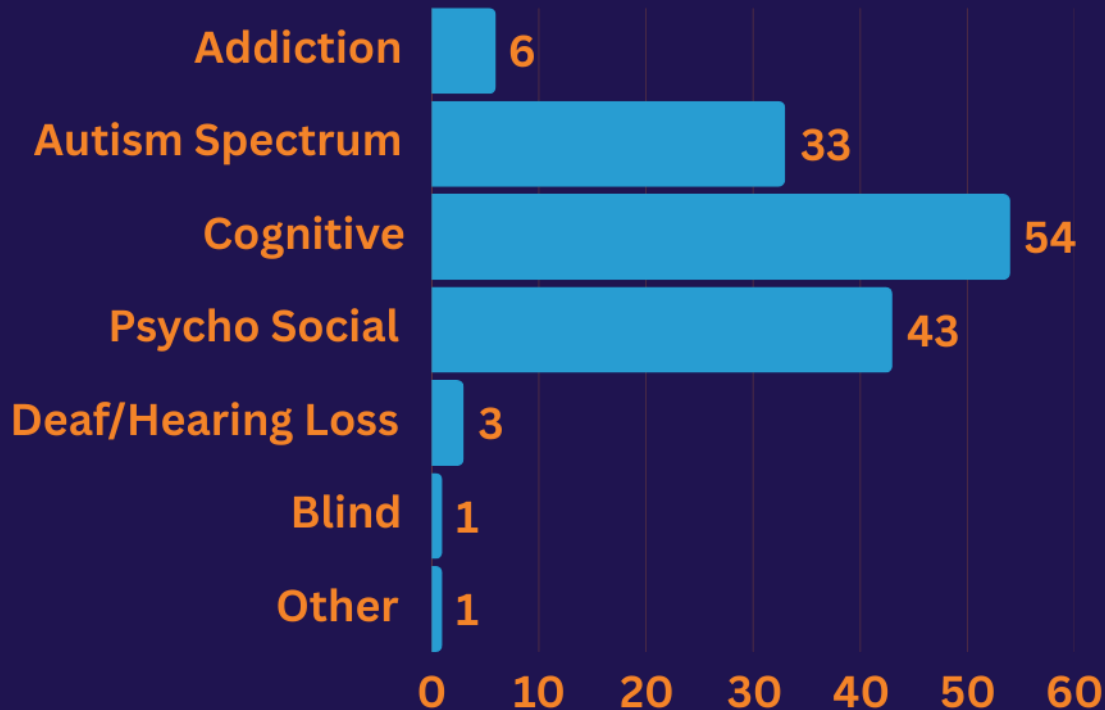
PY 24 Grantees	
Community Work Services	Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
Employment Options	Center of Hope
Grow Associates	Polus Center for Social and Economic Development
Jewish Vocational Services	

# PY 24 GENDER BREAKDOWN

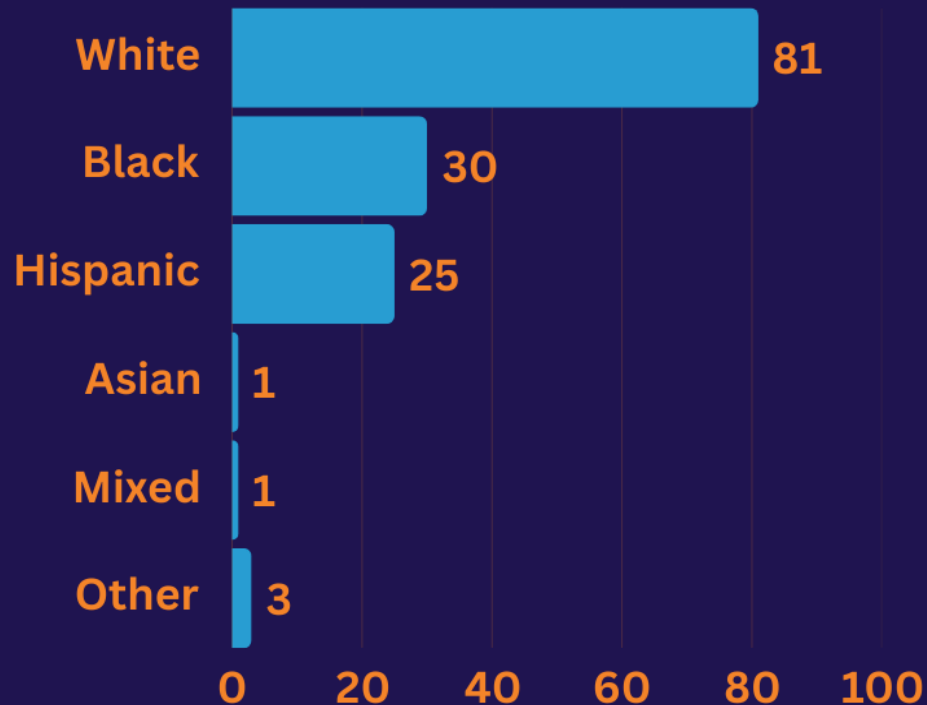




# PY 24 DISABILITY BREAKDOWN



# PY 24 RACE/ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN



## PY 2024 COMPLETION DATA (N=141)

Completed Program	Attained Credential	Employed and Retained Employment for 30 Days*	Average Wage
<b>86%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>\$15.21</b>

PY 2025 Grantees	Award Amount	Anticipated # of Participants	Training Location	Industry/Training
Community Work Services	\$200,000	27	Boston	Commercial Cleaning, Food Arts, Commercial Production, Hospitality, and Clean Energy
Employment Options, Inc.	\$200,000	36	Marlborough	Culinary
Polus Center for Social and Economic Development	\$199,991	24	Athol	Grocery/Retail
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School	\$132,900	20	Fitchburg	Culinary, Facilities Maintenance, Basic Carpentry, Day Care, Pet Care and Data Entry / Office Assistant
Partners for Youth with Disabilities	\$120,000	12	Attleboro	Construction, Customer Service, and Hospitality

Questions?