

Massachusetts Workforce Skills Fund

The Massachusetts Workforce Skills Fund supports a training stipend pilot program designed by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), in partnership with the Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp), to support and encourage upskilling and training participation for un-and-underemployed individuals.

Program Background

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is leveraging federal funds to provide training stipends, financially supporting individuals to participate in training and achieve their career goals.
- As a pilot program, the funding will support training and upskilling to meet the demand for skilled workers in priority industries and occupations defined by EOLWD and CommCorp.

Stipend Amount and Schedule

Stipends will be awarded to participants based on training duration, so long as funds are available during this pilot:

- \$3,000 total for approved training programs that are fewer than 3 months (90 calendar days or fewer)
- \$5,000 total for approved training programs that are longer than 3 months (more than 90 calendar days)

Each approved training program will list the amount of instruction time required. Stipend amounts are determined based on (intended) program length at time of enrollment.

Stipends will be issued at three milestones:

- 50% after successfully completing two weeks of approved training
- 20% upon completion of entire approved training course; and
- 30% upon obtaining employment (post-training), if employment is obtained within 100 days of completion.

Note: Once a participant has received their first stipend installment, funds will be reserved to ensure availability of funding for all payments upon successful completion of defined benchmarks.

Note: To receive the final stipend installment, post-training, employment must be obtained and entered into APRICOT, Commonwealth Corporation's database of record.

Stipend Guidelines

To receive the stipend, the participant will be provided a link to a secure, online banking portal. The trainee will be invited to create an account to the Training Stipend Program online portal.

Participants can choose how to receive funds: Direct Deposit, Electronic Transfer via Zelle or Debit Card.

Eligible Courses

Stipends are a fixed amount of flexible dollars provided directly to individuals who will enroll in eligible approved training programs. Currently, eligible programs include:

- Career Technical Initiative (CTI)
- and the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF)

These programs encompass a wide range of industries, such as:

- Healthcare
- Finance
- Construction
- Hospitality
- Transportation
- Manufacturing
- Trades
- Information Technology

More detailed information regarding the program, including specific guidelines and resources, will be made in the coming weeks. For immediate assistance please contact MAWorkforceSkillsFund@mass.gov.

For this pilot, available training stipends are fully federally funded. Additional details available upon request.