The National Fund for Workforce Solutions

Building shared prosperity through better skills, workforce innovations, and good jobs

Our Mission
To drive practices, policies, and investments that enable workers to succeed in good jobs, provide employers with a skilled workforce, and build more prosperous communities.

Our Model
The National Fund invests in an employer-driven model of industry partnerships that enables communities to prepare individuals with in-demand skills, connect companies to trained employees, and generate a stronger workforce and economy.

The National Fund supports CareerSTAT, which is a national network of healthcare leaders promoting investment in the skills and careers of frontline workers.

Our Results
Over the last decade, the National Fund has:
- Helped approximately 67,500 job seekers and 25,000 incumbent workers develop new skills and find a good job;
- Assisted participants in securing 65,000 industry approved credentials;
- Leveraged its $26 million investment to generate $315 million in aligned or matched investments from 700 local funders;
- Organized 2,000 employers in 70 active industry partnerships.

Our Network
The National Fund is a network of 33 regional collaboratives and 70 active industry partnerships operating in 26 states across a wide range of sectors including manufacturing, retail, hospitality, healthcare, and information technology.

Evaluation Results: The National Fund vs. Matched Comparison Group

Based on a study of our model implemented by the WRTP Manufacturing Partnership in Milwaukee Wisconsin, the National Fund excels at getting people into jobs, keeping employees in key positions, and raising compensation for workers. National Fund participants were measured against a matched comparison one year after training and saw:

- **Higher Employment**
  - National Fund: 72%
  - Matched Comparison: 51%
  - 41% higher employment rate

- **Longer Retention**
  - National Fund: 48%
  - Matched Comparison: 23%
  - 2x as likely to be retained

- **Better Earnings**
  - National Fund: $19,149
  - Matched Comparison: $7,329
  - $11,820 or 161% higher wages

(Our Results) Michaelides, Marios; Mueser, Peter; and, Mbwana, Kassim. Evidence on the Effectiveness of Six Workforce Partnership Programs in Ohio and Wisconsin. IMPAQ International, LLC. August, 2016.
Improving Workforce Systems
The National Fund and its collaboratives are improving the workforce systems and business practices that shape employment and opportunity in our communities. Recent successes include:

- **The New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare** worked closely with employers to develop training programs that are responsive to labor market needs. The approach has been adopted by NYC Mayor de Blasio to serve as the basis for widespread reform in the city's workforce system.

- **The Baltimore Center for Green Careers** is helping to grow a burgeoning weatherization industry while working with employers to implement hiring and wage policies that benefit entry-level workers. In return for connections to new customers, employers hire trainees from the BCGC Center at $14.50/hour and provide hiring opportunities to community members, including ex-offenders.

- Operating across the tristate, Cincinnati's **Health Careers Collaborative** worked with the region's largest healthcare employers to offer tuition benefits at the beginning of classes making education more accessible to frontline workers.

- **Boston’s SkillWorks** has strengthened state and city workforce programs to support all workers seeking a good job. Its accomplishments include helping to increase funding for statewide sector-based and employer-based training, summer youth employment, and job training for welfare recipients.

Advancing Healthcare's Frontline Workers
The National Fund’s CareerSTAT initiative is a network of 200 healthcare and workforce leaders advancing healthcare’s frontline workers. Together they recognize healthcare organizations making sustained investments in their workforce, research best practices and assist organizations in expanding frontline worker pipelines and programs. Recent Frontline Healthcare Worker Champions include:

- **Hebrew SeniorLife** (HSL) in Massachusetts offers career planning services, on-the-job training and leadership development opportunities to prepare workers for promotions and advancement. By developing its own staff, HSL has reduced its turnover rate by 64% and improved patient outcomes.

- **Mercy** of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas provides its lowest-paid employees with holistic career development and support services to assist their advancement and job satisfaction, including the School at Work© program, affordable transportation and tuition assistance.

- **Ochsner Health System** in New Orleans hires within the neighborhoods it serves, partners with community-based organizations and operates a workforce development department that supports education and training programs that benefit frontline clinical and non-clinical staff.

- **University Health System** in San Antonio recruits refugees and new Americans, harnesses their skills with English language and translation programs, and offers entry-level employees opportunities to advance to higher-paying clinical positions.

Connecting job-seekers and employers helps businesses find trained workers and residents get good jobs, but its impact is greater when more players get involved. The National Fund’s local sites, such as SkillWorks in Boston, help to connect multiple employers and industries in this work, and CareerSTAT connects healthcare employers around the country in a community of practice aimed at investing in the skills of frontline workers.

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The National Fund is Supported By:
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- The Hitachi Foundation
- The JPB Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Prudential Foundation
- The Social Innovation Fund
- Walmart
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### About the National Fund for Workforce Solutions

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions is a national network promoting economic opportunity and prosperous communities through investment and innovation. Based in Washington D.C., the National Fund partners with philanthropy, employers, workers, public and private community organizations, and more than 30 regional collaboratives to invest in skills, improve systems, and generate good jobs. The National Fund supports civic and business leaders in promoting evidence-based practices and policies that build shared prosperity.


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