



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE
EDUCATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Jobs for the Future

For a job training program to be cost-effective, it must prepare trainees to do the work that is actually available in their area. A mismatch between skills taught and employer needs helps no one and wastes taxpayer money. That is why Jobs for the Future (JFF), through the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS), tailors each local program to the needs of both low-income job hunters and employers. The result is a win-win for the U.S. economy – unemployment drops and productivity increases. In addition, low-income workers get a shot at more than just a job, but a career.

With a two-year, \$7.7-million grant from the Social Innovation Fund, NFWS will train at least 23,000 low-income individuals over three years, tailoring skills taught to meet critical needs of more than 1,000 employers. To do so, NFWS has formed 21 “workforce collaboratives” across the country to identify jobs and career pathways in high-growth industries. Each of these collaboratives receives \$300,000 to \$600,000 in Social Innovation Fund money over two years, to be matched dollar for dollar with local funds:

- **Alabama:** [Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council](#) focuses on maritime, aerospace, health care and process manufacturing jobs in an eight-county region in southwestern Alabama, including Mobile.
- **California:**
 - [The San Diego Workforce Funders Collaborative](#) helps low-income residents move into better-paying careers in California community health clinics.
 - [The Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative](#) works with San Francisco-area community colleges and employers in health care, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.
- **Connecticut:** [Workforce Solutions of Metro Hartford](#) is expanding partnerships in energy, health care and advanced manufacturing in the Greater Hartford area.
- **Georgia:** [Atlanta CareerRise](#), a United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta initiative, will focus on mid-level job skills in growth industries in the 26-county Greater Atlanta region.
- **Indiana and Kentucky:** [Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development \(WIRED65\)](#) focuses on health care and manufacturing, serving 26 counties along the I-65 corridor in Kentucky and southern Indiana.
- **Iowa:** [The Central Iowa Works Funding Collaborative](#) helps low-income workers in the Des Moines area prepare for and land jobs in the energy, advanced manufacturing, health care, and financial services sectors.
- **Louisiana:**
 - [New Orleans Works](#) supports the new BioDistrict New Orleans, serving eight Greater New Orleans parishes (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany).

- **Workforce Innovations** in Northwest Louisiana is creating workforce partnerships in health care and energy to support employers and low-income workers in the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster.
- **Maryland: Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative** focuses on biotechnology, construction and health care in Greater Baltimore.
- **Massachusetts: SkillWorks: Partners for a Productive Workforce** focuses on health care, financial services, hospitality and green-collar jobs in and around Boston.
- **Mississippi: The Delta Workforce Funding Collaborative** specializes in health care and manufacturing, serving a rural, 14-county region along the northwestern Mississippi Delta.
- **New York: The New York City Workforce Innovation Fund** focuses on health care, including acute care, primary care and long-term care.
- **Ohio: Partners for a Competitive Workforce** is scaling up investments in health care, construction and advanced manufacturing sectors in the Greater Cincinnati region.
- **Pennsylvania:**
 - **United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania** invests in health care, manufacturing and horticulture, serving the five-county Philadelphia metro area.
 - **Pennsylvania Fund for Workforce Solutions** will coordinate with and expand existing job training initiatives in Erie, Pittsburgh and four south-central Pennsylvania cities: Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading and York.
- **South Carolina: Greenville Regional Funder Collaborative**, under the Appalachian Council of Governments, focuses on transportation fabrication within advanced manufacturing, serving Greenville and surrounding counties (Anderson, Pickens, Laurens and Spartanburg).
- **Virginia: The Dan River Region Collaborative** is scaling up rural partnerships in advanced manufacturing, health care and energy in the Dan River Valley region.
- **Washington: SkillUp Washington** is scaling up in health care, business services (e.g., receptionists, office managers, bookkeeping clerks) and transportation/logistics sector, serving the Seattle-King County region.
- **Wisconsin:**
 - **The Workforce Central Funders Collaborative** focuses on information technology, small-scale manufacturers, food industry and health care in rural South Wood County and nearby areas.
 - **The Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance** is expanding investments in the health care and building trade sectors, including financial counseling and long-term coaching support.

NFWS currently works with over 80 workforce partnerships and nearly 2,000 employers in 32 communities. In 2009, 9,735 participants received degrees or credentials, 4,058 secured jobs, and 81 percent of “graduates” now work full time. With \$23.7 million in commitments from national sources, NFWS has leveraged over \$100 million from more than 200 local and regional funders

Social Innovation Fund project at a glance

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| Federal award | \$7.7 million (2010 – 2011) \$2 million (2012) |
| Focus area | Economic opportunity |
| Geographic focus | Alabama, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin |
| Collaborating funders | The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, The Hitachi Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., The Kresge Foundation, Microsoft, Open Society Foundations, The Prudential Foundation, The Walmart Foundation |
| Website | http://www.jff.org/ and http://www.nfwsolutions.org/ |