

CASE STUDY

THE MANUFACTURING AND TECHNICAL COMMUNITY HUB (MATCH), FAIR HAVEN, CT

A comprehensive program where manufacturing trainees receive on-the-job training and support. As they train, students make components for manufacturing companies who have contracted with MATCH. Classroom instruction is taught by current manufacturing experts who know the needs of the industry and how to develop skills among trainees. Families needing additional support such as diapers or energy assistance can come to MATCH and work with a service provider to assess their eligibility and obtain benefits.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MATCH is specifically designed for individuals who have experienced barriers to employment, including immigrants, women, returning citizens (individuals who are returning to the community following incarceration) , and individuals who are unskilled. It is also designed to allow a trainee to explore where their interests fit best through on-the-job training; in other words, if a certain position or operation does not seem like the right fit, trainees will be able to learn other machines or operations until they can find the best match.

POPULATION SERVED

MATCH has not begun its training program, but it intends to offer training opportunities to individuals eligible to work in the U.S. and who have passed a drug test. MATCH is intended to begin in September 2023.

WHAT STANDS OUT: THE MATCH APPROACH

ADDRESSING MANY BARRIERS

MATCH intends to address the myriad of challenges faced by today's workforce. Its approach is intended to address barriers such as:

Transportation & Location: Located in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven, Connecticut, the training/manufacturing facility will be located on one of the most traveled bus lines and in a densely populated, racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood.

Family Friendly Schedules: Individuals will train for 25 hours per week, enabling caretakers to be home in time for the arrival of school-aged students. The program's willingness to challenge the

traditional 40-hour work week is ground-breaking and MATCH has challenged other employers in the region to experiment with these types of innovations.

Transcending Language Barriers: In response to New Haven's growing immigrant population, which speaks approximately 20 different languages, MATCH will offer translators, bi-lingual instructors, and on-site ESL classes.

Industry Led Training: Students are taught by instructors who are currently working in the manufacturing industry and learn current skills and standards. In addition, administrative and sales training will be offered for roles outside the shop floor.

Comprehensive Supports: MATCH will collaborate with local nonprofit organizations that offer resources such as energy assistance, diapers, and housing. Non-profits offering these services or resources will be onsite, making the facility a "one-stop shop" for resources, training, and job opportunities.