

SMOC gets state trust grant for job training

Posted Jul 18, 2013

FRAMINGHAM - Framingham-based South Middlesex Opportunity Council is among the agencies receiving grant partnership funding from the state Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund which was established last year.

The \$4.5 million released this week through the trust fund for 15 grant partnerships statewide will be used by agencies and businesses to bridge the gap between workers' current skills and those needed for jobs that require more than a high school diploma but less than the equivalent of a four-year degree.

The regional partnerships aim to train more than 850 individuals, mostly job seekers, in a variety of industries including healthcare, manufacturing, construction trades, hotel and hospitality, early education and financial services.

Recipients include agencies from Cape Cod to the Berkshires.

Locally, SMOC will receive \$208,037 for a partnership to prepare unemployed and underemployed individuals, with a special focus on veterans, for weatherization installer jobs and incumbent weatherization installers.

Additionally, SMOC and its partners will develop a middle skills gap workforce development priorities work plan focused on the Energy Efficiency Management industry sector.