



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

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**During Visit to Allentown Training Center, Governor Shapiro
Highlights Major Investments in Workforce Development and First-in-
the-Nation Job Training Program**

Through historic budget investments in workforce development and the creation of the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program, the Shapiro Administration is creating real opportunity for Pennsylvanians



Allentown, PA – Today, during a visit to the Allentown Campus of the Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters Technical College, **Governor Josh Shapiro** and **Secretary of Labor & Industry Nancy Walker** highlighted the Administration's major investments in workforce development, including historic state spending in job training and the [Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program](#) (CWTP).

Since taking office, Governor Shapiro has been focused on creating real opportunity for Pennsylvanians, whether that's through college or the workforce. The 2023-24 bipartisan budget delivers on that promise by investing **\$23.5 million** in workforce training and vo-tech programs to prepare more students for skilled careers in the building, construction, and infrastructure industries and **\$6 million** in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programming so Pennsylvanians can earn-while-they-learn and secure a job that leads to family-sustaining wages.

"My Administration is getting serious about training the next generation of workers, because my vision for Pennsylvania is one where everyone has the freedom to chart their own course and the opportunity to succeed," said **Governor Josh Shapiro**. "If Pennsylvanians want to go straight into the workforce, we should make sure they have the skills and opportunities to be successful and provide for their families. That's why I fought for and secured historic investments in our bipartisan budget and my Administration is prioritizing workforce training – we're leveraging federal dollars to train

10,000 Pennsylvania workers and ensure the next generation of workers has the skills and expertise to power our economy into the future."

An additional **\$3.5 million** investment in the budget funds the Department of Labor & Industry's (L&I) Schools-to-Work Program to develop and expand career pathways for high school students via partnerships between schools, employers, organizations, and the Commonwealth.

"Our ultimate goal for the next few years to build a well-trained workforce that is responsive to the needs of business and prepared for the jobs of the future. To do that, we have to see the challenges and confront them deliberately by investing in the workers of Pennsylvania," said **Labor & Industry Secretary Nancy A. Walker**. "Under Governor Shapiro's leadership, we secured a \$3.5 million investment in this year's budget for the Schools-To-Work program, which creates a robust system of employment and training pathways for high school students as they make decisions about entering the workforce. As job requirements continue to evolve, it is our duty to ensure Pennsylvania workers are well-equipped with the skills needed to be successful in the modern labor market."

In addition to the budget investments in workforce development, Governor Shapiro [established](#) the CWTP – a new, first-in-the-nation job training program that will invest as much as \$400 million in on-the-job training and create 10,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania. The CWTP will create new opportunities for Pennsylvania workers and help expand the Commonwealth's workforce by providing workforce development grants to ensure companies, contractors, unions, and others who are working to build Pennsylvania's infrastructure have the skilled workforce they need.

"It is an honor to introduce a true leader and friend of labor – Governor Josh Shapiro. The commitment you are showing today towards union apprenticeships and through the first-in-the-nation Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program means a lot to me personally," said **Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters apprentice Adam Arditi**. "With the historic investment offered through the Biden Administration's bipartisan infrastructure bill, and the leadership of Governor Josh Shapiro in helping to expand training for carpenters like me and future apprentices of our union, there will be opportunities for Pennsylvania workers to not just earn great wages – but create a career right here in the Commonwealth."

For more information on the bipartisan, commonsense 2023-24 budget and its investments in workforce development, visit shapirobudget.pa.gov. Pennsylvania workers and employers can find details on the CWTP, eligibility information, and other resources at pa.gov/newjobs.

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