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## Three in Central Mass. among those splitting \$16M for workforce development



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The Quinsigamond Community College campus in Worcester

By Mica Kanner-Mascolo

**T**hree Central Massachusetts organizations and institutions have been awarded \$2 million in state funds to sponsor their workforce development initiatives aimed at closing the skills gap and placing hundreds of unemployed and underemployed residents into culinary, human, and medical service positions.

Polus Center for Social & Economic Development in Athol received \$1 million to be split amongst two of its training programs: \$500,000 in funding will provide training and placement for 72 individuals in human services positions with the other \$500,000 to fund training and placement of an additional 72 individuals for positions providing support for autistic children and adults.

Aspire Training and Development in Shrewsbury received \$500,000 to train and place 60 individuals into food service jobs including sous chef, prep cook, waitstaff, and event server positions.

Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester was awarded \$500,000 to train and place 90 individuals in clinical medical assistant and personal care assistant positions.

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Funding for the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success grants, totalling in \$15.9 million statewide, is provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, according to a Wednesday press release from the office.

Split amongst 22 recipients throughout Massachusetts, the granted funds will sponsor employment efforts for 2,182 individuals.

“With these grants, we are supporting both our workforce and our businesses and putting the state in a position to not only succeed but thrive,” Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said in the release. “The grants will help these organizations attract and retain the skilled talent they need and give our workforce the training to help them on their career pathway.”