



May, 2026



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Applications Are Open**

Leaves for qualifying events officially began on May 1! The first weekly benefit payments through the state plan were made on May 7.

Since March 30, the Department has received over 2,000 applications for the state plan, which is consistent with the [actuarial estimate](#). (**Note:** Some employees are covered by their employers private plan, rather than the state plan. Before applying, employees considering leave should talk to their employer to find out the next steps they should take to apply to the state or a private plan.)

More info: [Paid Family and Medical Leave \(PFML\) program](#)

### **Apprenticeship Expansion:**

MDOL is expanding youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities through a [new partnership with CareerWise](#). Maine is one of ten Apprenticeship America States selected to receive intensive support from CareerWise and national partners, along with early-stage funding to strengthen employer-led youth apprenticeship systems.

### **Summer Opportunities for Youth:**

Youth 14-years-old and older can work in many types of jobs, as long as the duties and hours do not interfere with school or create risks to their health or safety.

Learn about:

- [Work Permits for Those under the Age of 16](#)

- Labor Laws for Minors in the Workplace
- Registered Apprenticeship
- Career Exploration
- Summer Programs for Students with Disabilities

And more, at [maine.gov/labor/schoolresources/](https://maine.gov/labor/schoolresources/)



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Nearly \$8 Million in Funding Available for Defense Shipbuilding and Advanced Manufacturing Training:**

Maine employers in the defense shipbuilding and advanced manufacturing sectors can now apply for funding to train new and incumbent workers through the Defense and Manufacturing Training Fund. Led by the Maine State Workforce Development Board, the program reimburses eligible employers up to \$8,000 per employee for approved training costs. Learn more and apply: [worksourcemaine.com/training-fund](https://worksourcemaine.com/training-fund)

### **Expansion of Maine Apprenticeship Program:**

\$1.5 million in funding is available for employers, workforce development agencies, labor unions, community-based organizations, industry associations, secondary school districts, post-secondary schools and municipal governments to expand registered apprenticeship capacity, strengthen workforce pipelines, and create accessible pathways into high-demand careers across Maine.

Deadline: May 22, 2026.

More information:

[maine.gov/labor/docs/Expansion\\_of\\_the\\_Maine\\_Apprenticeship\\_Program.pdf](https://maine.gov/labor/docs/Expansion_of_the_Maine_Apprenticeship_Program.pdf)

### **Maine Career Pathways Programs:**

The Maine DOE and Maine DOL anticipate making 2-4 awards of up to \$250,000 for Maine school administrative units (SAUs), high schools, career and technical education (CTE) centers, adult education programs, and community-based organizations that have a history of partnering with schools, to develop Maine Career Pathways that support student and adult learner success through advising, dual-credit coursework, work-based learning (including pre-apprenticeship and

apprenticeship), and industry credentials in priority sectors (Early Childhood Education, Infrastructure/Trades, Healthcare).

Deadline: June 1, 2026

More information: <https://mainedoenews.net/2026/04/29/priority-notice-request-for-applications-now-open-for-maine-career-pathways-pilot-opportunity/>



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hiring Events

- Portland CareerCenter Job Fair – June 3 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Presque Isle Summer Hiring Event – June 3 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Brunswick June Job Jam Hiring Event – June 4 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Farmington Veteran Hiring Event & Resource Fair – June 5 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Lewiston Hiring Event – June 9 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Portland Job Fair – June 10 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Sanford Job Fair – June 23 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Machias Summer Hiring Event – June 24 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[Browse Hiring Events Here](#)

### Workshops:

- Applying for Jobs within Maine State Government
- Google Drive & Docs
- Creating a Winning Resume
- Interviewing with Confidence

And more!

[Browse Workshops and Register Here](#)

### SafetyWorks & Wage and Hour Classes

**Work Zone Safety:** May 22, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. SafetyWorks! Training Institute, Department of Labor, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta

**Scaffolding & Fall Protection:** May 26, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. SafetyWorks! Training Institute, Department of Labor, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta

**Wage & Hour Compliance:** May 27, 2026, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Northern Maine Community College, Edmunds Center, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle

**OSHA Recordkeeping:** May 28, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Northern Maine Community College, Keegan Room, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle

[Browse Classes and Register Here](#)



## RECENT REPORTS

### **CWRI: Output, Hours and Labor Productivity**

[This report from the Center for Workforce Research and Information](#) breaks down how changes in labor resources can contribute to economic growth in two primary ways:

- 1) changes in the amount of labor (*jobs and hours*)
- 2) changes in the value of goods and services produced per hour of work (*labor productivity*)

It shows how if labor productivity continues to improve, as it has so far in the 2000s, economic output can still grow even as the labor force grows more slowly.

### **Maine's Industry Partnership Program - Implementation Lessons and Early Outcomes:**

[This report](#), developed by the Data Innovation Project (DIP), which is part of the Catherine Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy at the University of Southern Maine, is the second of three reports to evaluate the efforts and impacts of the State Workforce Development Board's Industry Partnership Program and follows a [preliminary report released in early 2025](#).

The Industry Partnerships Program was launched in 2022 to support the workforce development needs of industries in Maine that had been disrupted by COVID-19. Industry Partnerships were charged with creating strategies to attract and retain

employees, deliver skills-specific training in these industries, and strengthen career ladders with a focus on entry-level workers to improve skills and wages across jobs. The \$3.7 million Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan program funded six industry partnership pilot initiatives to support Maine employers and employees in creating sustainable and equitable talent pipelines.



## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Are you looking to take the next step in your career, or recruit your next employee? Check out [Work Source Maine](#), a new digital workforce hub designed to serve every corner of Maine, providing job seekers and employers with personalized, accessible, and comprehensive career and recruitment support, anytime, anywhere!

Work Source Maine is Maine's one-stop online destination for job seekers, students, parents, educators, and career counselors looking to explore, plan, and achieve their career goals.



## WORK AT MDOL

**We are looking for:** Rehabilitation Counselors, Office Associate, Fraud Investigator, Employer Compliance & Collections Specialist, and more!

[Browse Jobs with the State of Maine](#)



## AWARDS



[SafetyWorks!](#) recognized the Greenville Public Safety Department in February for their outstanding commitment to workplace safety and health. The Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) Program recognizes public employers' dedication to maintaining an exemplary safety and health management system to ensure the well-being of its employees.

Learn more about the SHAPE Program at <https://safetyworksmaine.gov/workplace-safety/public-sector-recognition-program>.



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## CELEBRATION CORNER

- **Atlas Structural Systems, Inc.**, partnered with the Lewiston CareerCenter and workforce partners to recruit for its new Lewiston facility. At a CareerCenter hiring event, 52 job seekers connected with the company—including 17 women—resulting in 20 onsite interviews and 16 job offers. The effort helped Atlas quickly build its workforce while expanding opportunities for women in manufacturing.
- **Eleven businesses** in Bangor, Machias, and Lewiston including Mahoney Construction, INSPIRE Recovery Center, and Bangor Area Recovery Network participated in Progressive Employment job shadows, tours, and transitional work experiences with jobseekers in recovery or with justice involvement. As a result, Mahoney Construction hired a participant as a full-time construction laborer at \$25/hour after a job shadow, and Healthy Acadia–Safe Harbor transitioned a paid work experience participant into a permanent recovery coach role.
- **A veteran jobseeker** working with the Wilton CareerCenter was seeking a pathway to stable, family-sustaining employment. CareerCenter staff helped update his resume, connect him to heat pump training opportunities at Central Maine Community College, and connect to full time HVAC employment with AirServ earning \$24 per hour.
- During outreach at **Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services**, Lewiston CareerCenter staff supported Jeff after a 10-week layoff with resume development and a targeted job search through Maine JobLink. Staff helped him apply for a mail carrier role aligned with his interest in outdoor work and complete the application and assessment on-site. Jeff was hired by the United States Postal Service at \$21.44/hour as a mail carrier.
- **A justice-involved individual** applied for vocational rehabilitation services while incarcerated in March 2024. Shortly before and after his release, DVR provided resume/interview coaching plus work clothing, footwear, and transportation assistance to support reentry employment. After initial construction and drywall jobs, he secured full-time work as a damage appraiser earning \$35/hour.