

Strengthening New York's Workforce



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

wdiny.org

Our Goals

The Workforce Development Institute (WDI) works to increase opportunities for all New Yorkers to succeed in their working lives.

Our focus is on quality jobs, with family-sustaining wages, benefits, worker protections, and opportunities to advance based on training.

WDI works with partners touching every sector in every corner of the state, supporting emerging sectors with sustained opportunities for working people.

Our work is demand driven and flexible, with projects responding to employer needs while producing positive measurable impact on workers and promoting inclusion and self-sufficiency.



A message from the Executive Director

WDI has been a trusted partner with labor and those in the business community who understand that high-road, family-sustaining jobs with good pay and benefits are critical to bringing people out of poverty, back into the workforce, and into the middle class. Our goal is to set a path for workers to attain and adapt to the skills needed to compete and succeed in the “future of work.”

WE ARE GROUNDED IN OUR WORKER-CENTERED APPROACH AND WILL CONTINUE TO FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO:

- Create a more diverse workforce in industries where women and people of color are underrepresented, and build a pipeline to high-quality jobs with on-the-job training.
- Grow an equitable cannabis industry that includes skills training and job-readiness programs for disenfranchised communities.
- Build a greener economy with renewable energy supply chain opportunities for workers in construction, maintenance and operation, and manufacturing American-made components large and small.
- Enhance infrastructure projects that support apprenticeship programs to rebuild roads and bridges, rail and transit, and modernize the electrical grid.
- Advocate for human infrastructure needs and workforce supports like affordable and accessible child care and help improve wages for those who care for our most vulnerable.

We will help address emerging workforce challenges, propose innovative solutions, and support employers that place workers as full partners to improve economic productivity in New York State.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy".

Amy Desjardins



Our Areas of Focus



PRE-APPRENTICE PROGRAMS

WDI is working with partners to advance opportunities for entry-level workers from underrepresented populations to gain the foundational skills, technical knowledge, and work experience to qualify for apprenticeships.

APPRENTICESHIP

The blend of classroom and on-the-job training allows workers to “earn while you learn” and gain modern skills with no debt. The Union Building Trades remain the gold standard model for new titles in other sectors. These programs must pay family-sustaining wages to be successful.

CLEAN ENERGY

New skills and credentials in manufacturing, construction, and beyond are necessary to ensure workers are ready for high-quality jobs in wind, solar, fuel cells, and energy storage as New York State moves to 50% renewable energy by 2030.

MANUFACTURING

WDI works within the industry to understand the skills necessary to keep this sector strong, including training individuals to work in highly skilled positions in modern, technologically advanced and data-driven environments.

CANNABIS

Adult-use cannabis can promote social equity and economic recovery to communities negatively impacted by the “War on Drugs.” The medical cannabis industry serves as a model for highly skilled, good-paying jobs in the supply chain.

CHILD CARE

WDI’s Child Care Subsidy Program aims to provide equitable access to quality, affordable child care for working families. We administer income-based subsidies for median-income households in five Upstate regions, and work statewide to increase awareness of the child care crisis beyond traditional stakeholders.

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

WDI supports programs to increase skills and access to career opportunities for individuals who have been justice-involved, workers with disabilities, individuals experiencing generational poverty, immigrants, and refugees.

CONNECTING LEARNERS WITH TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Future Skills Exchange (FSX) is an interactive, web-based platform connecting New Yorkers seeking courses, apprenticeships, credentials, and assessments to the providers that deliver them. Training providers can post their training offerings for free on FSX. Visit futureskillsx.org.



Our Roles

WDI works collaboratively and statewide with unions, businesses, non-profits, and community groups to develop targeted solutions.

We use a range of tools including “boots on the ground” information, workforce expertise, data analysis, and flexible funding to facilitate projects that help our partners think and act differently regarding hiring, training, and retaining an inclusive and productive workforce.

Our flexible funding provided by the New York State legislature enables WDI to quickly and effectively deliver resources that are not available through other programs.

CAREER EXPLORATION

The workforce of the future cannot be forgotten while solving the problems of today. During our economic recovery we must ensure that the next generation understands the many pathways into successful careers.

RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS

We conduct research to better understand workforce topics, inform decision-making, and improve program outcomes. By combining our own workforce intelligence with other data sources, we add important context to what we see and empower our partners to set priorities and refine use of resources.

WDI staff are often the critical link that:

- Identifies a problem or opportunity (for one organization or many);
- Offers solutions on a wide array of workforce issues;
- Connects organizations with resources to meet their needs;
- Pilots/tests new programs technologies, and methods; and
- Facilitates projects by convening partners and leveraging resources.

WDI supports projects to advance skills and create opportunities for workers, including but not limited to the offerings below.

We are always seeking opportunities to learn about new training programs that will further our portfolio and provide workers with the most modern skills.



MANUFACTURING

Mechatronics; welding; programmable logic; software; equipment



TECHNICAL SKILLS

Training on new equipment, software, and procedures



FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

Communication; problem-solving; work-readiness; financial literacy



ACCESSIBILITY

ESL and other workplace languages; digital literacy; shop math



BUSINESS STRATEGY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; cybersecurity; exports; ISO, AS9100 and other quality standards



LEADERSHIP

Management; supervision; project management



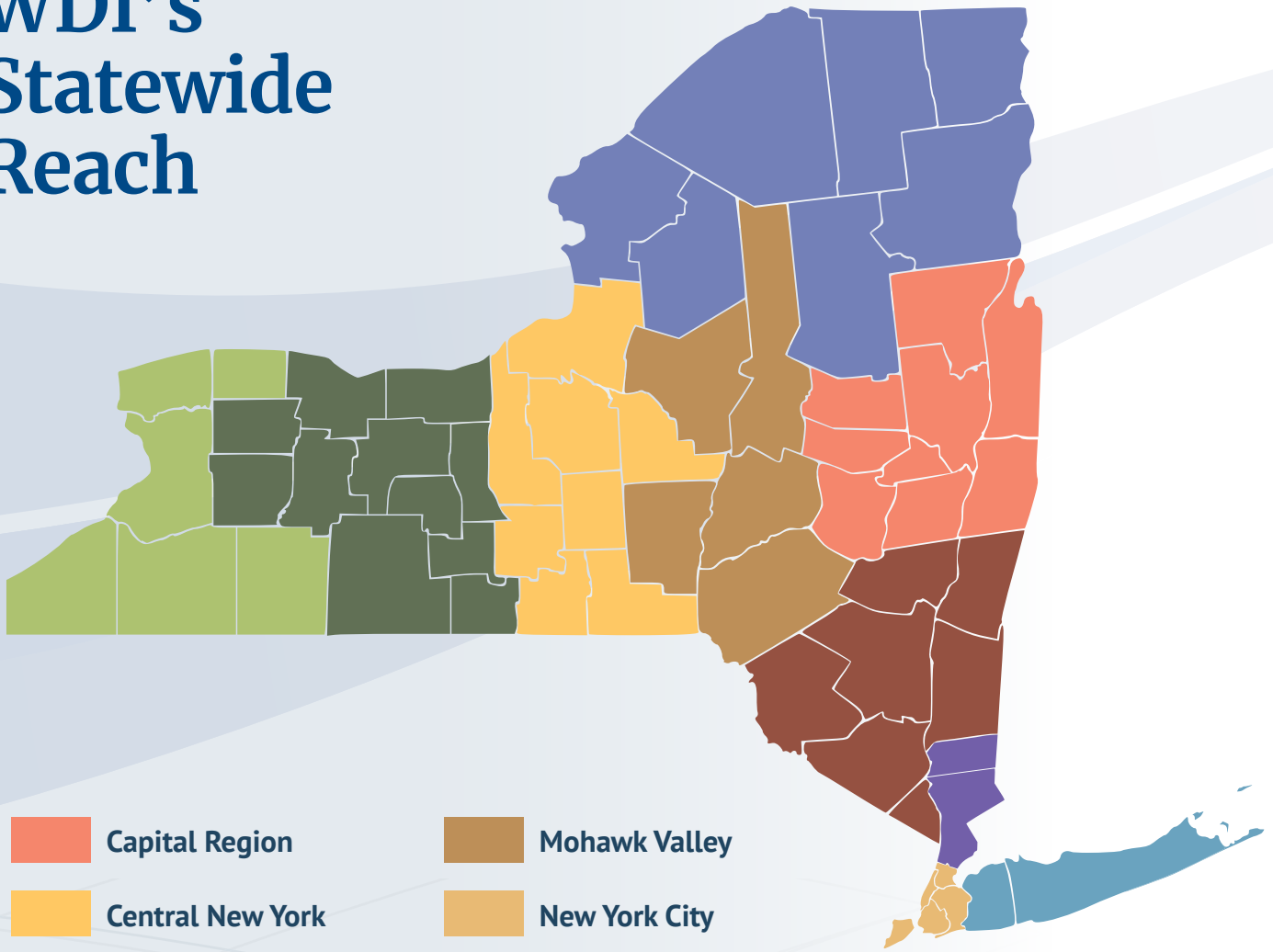
SAFETY AND HEALTH











Worker safety and health including mental health; site and product safety

Learn more & connect with Regional Directors here:



WDI's Statewide Reach



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|---|--|
|  Capital Region |  Mohawk Valley |
|  Central New York |  New York City |
|  Hudson Valley |  North Country |
|  Long Island |  Rochester/Genesee Valley |
|  Lower Hudson Valley |  Western New York |

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