

Pennsylvania Introduces Keystone Works

Legislation authored by Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York) that would enable unemployed workers to more easily land a new job was passed by the House of Representatives June 13, 2012.

The measure, House Bill 1539, established the Keystone Works program, a new gateway to employment for those who have lost their jobs or have difficulty finding work in this challenging economy. The voluntary program provides job-specific training by connecting interested unemployed persons with businesses seeking to hire for open positions.

Businesses participating in Keystone Works pay no compensation to the trainee. Training can be conducted for up to 24 hours per week up to eight weeks. Trainees are prescreened by PA CareerLink® staff to meet criteria outlined by the business in their training plan. Trainees who complete the program will receive up to 192 hours of training, enabling them to immediately be productive if hired at the end of the training period.

Businesses who hire trainees out of the program are eligible to receive monetary incentives up to \$375 for every four weeks the trainee is employed full-time, up to a total of \$1,500 per trainee hired.

Pennsylvania UC claimants with enough remaining eligible weeks of regular state-funded UC to meet or exceed the length of training will be able to participate in training while maintaining their UC benefits. Training must be approved by the Department of Labor & Industry through an application process.

How do businesses benefit?

- Matched with pre-screened qualified claimants to fill open positions
- Training plans designed by the business to meet individual needs
- Claimants will complete training at business facility and can be productive
- immediately if hired
- No cost to participate
- Up to \$1,500 in cash incentives may be available for hiring claimants that successfully complete training

How do claimants benefit?

- Turn training into full-time employment
- Receive job-specific training
- Obtain marketable skills
- Maintain a connection to the workforce
- Expand contact networks

For more information about the program, visit www.dli.state.pa.us/keystoneworks.

For a training application please contact Melissa Fleming at 570-265-2171 or email fleming@northerntier.org