

Workforce grants awarded in Brockton, Quincy, Whitman, Rockland, Taunton

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Businesses in Brockton, Quincy, Taunton, Rockland and Whitman were among 101 companies statewide to receive more than \$8.4 million in Workforce Training Grant funds, which will enable the businesses to train current or newly hired workers, state officials said.

“We know that a skilled workforce is key to driving economic growth in the Commonwealth,” Governor Charlie Baker said in a statement Friday announcing the workforce grants.

“Companies constantly tell us they need more skilled workers and these grants enable businesses large and small to provide those training opportunities in-house.”

Locally, the largest grant was awarded to South Bay Mental Health in Brockton, which will receive \$248,665 to train 341 workers, with 100 additional jobs expected by 2018, state officials said.

South Shore Workforce Investment Board Inc. in Quincy was awarded \$61,963 to train 44 workers. This grant was awarded to a consortium of businesses which includes Airxchange of Rockland and Bendon Gear and Machine Inc. of Rockland.

National Coating Corporation in Rockland was awarded \$92,300 to train 11 workers, with 6 additional jobs expected by 2018, officials said.

In Taunton, CBM Industries was awarded \$60,189 to train 35 workers, with 2 additional jobs expected by 2018. Also in Taunton, Ohlson Packaging Co. was awarded \$110,001 to train 19 workers, with 10 additional jobs expected by 2018.

Over in Whitman, Mutual Bank was awarded \$79,616 to train 93 workers, with 2 additional jobs expected by 2018, officials said.

The Workforce Training Fund provides grants up to \$250,000 to companies of any size in Massachusetts to pay for workforce training over a two-year period. Grants are awarded to projects that will upgrade workers’ skills, increase productivity, and enhance the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses. Grants are matched dollar-for-dollar by the award recipients.

“These grants offer a unique opportunity for local businesses not only to improve their workers skills, but also to boost their bottom line as a result of the training,” Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said in a statement.

The Workforce Training Fund is a program of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The program is administered by Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public state agency that fosters partnerships between industry, education and workforce organizations to strengthen skills for workers.

For more information on the fund, visit www.commcorp.org/wtftp.