

NYC WORKFORCE WEEKLY

CONTENTS

September 30 | 11
Vol. 5 | Issue 34



NYCHA Residents for NYCHA Jobs: The Resident Training Academy Model.....1



\$4.4 Billion High-Tech Project to Create 6,900 Jobs.....2



FPI Identifies Mass Transit Manufacturing Investment as Key Strategy for NYS Recovery.....2



CUNY Colleges Win Nearly \$20 Million Grant for Adult Training Programs for Dislocated Workers.....3

NYC's One Stop for Workforce and Economic Development News.

**NYC
E&TC**
New York City
Employment &
Training Coalition

NYCHA Residents for NYCHA Jobs: The Resident Training Academy Model

When John B. Rhea was selected as Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the nation's largest public housing authority, in mid-2009, he boldly prioritized the economic empowerment of residents. Most notably, Chairman Rhea created a new office, Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES), to increase economic opportunities for NYCHA residents with a focus on asset building, employment, advancement and business development. NYCHA, through REES, is in the process of implementing a new outcome driven resident economic opportunity platform focused on service coordination, strategic partnerships, leveraging localized external resources and services and assets to support resident advancement. Perhaps the most dynamic new initiative from REES is the Resident Training Academy, a public-private partnership with Robin Hood and some of the premier employment training providers in New York City that trains NYCHA residents for available jobs at NYCHA, with NYCHA vendors, and in the private sector.

The tremendous level of need for job training services for NYCHA residents cannot be overstated. Of the 500,000 residents who live in public housing, about 80,000 working age individuals reported that they were not employed. Approximately half of NYCHA households live below the Federal poverty line.

The Resident Training Academy offers a variety of employment-linked training programs to assist NYCHA residents in building technical and professional skills to best position them for future careers. In the first year of the program, Robin Hood invested \$750,000 for janitorial and construction training tracks that were respectively led by Brooklyn Workforce Innovations and Nontraditional Employment for Women.

(NYCHA Resident Training Academy Model continues on pg. 3)

NYC Workforce Weekly is published weekly by the New York City Employment and Training Coalition, 11 Park Place, Suite 701, New York, NY, 10007-2812. © Entire contents copyright 2008 by NYCETC, Inc. All rights reserved. For questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Lincoln Restler, Editor, *NYC Workforce Weekly* at 212.253.6967 or lrestler@nycetc.org. For questions regarding distribution, or to subscribe, contact Charlotte Volage at 212.253.6811 or cvolage@nycetc.org.

NYCETC is an association of more than 200 workforce development providers - small and large community-based organizations, community colleges, and union training programs - that provide employment services to approximately 800,000 New Yorkers each year in concert with our city's business community.

Lincoln Restler, Managing Director
Charlotte Volage, Association Manager
Annie Garneva, Program and Communications Associate



\$4.4 Billion High-Tech Project to Create 6,900 Jobs

A \$4.4 billion technology project was announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo this Tuesday that will create and retain approximately 6,900 jobs in New York State. The five major technology companies involved – Intel, IBM, GlobalFoundries, Samsung, and the Taiwan semiconductor maker TSMC – have agreed to build the next generation of computer chip technology, with facilities to be created or expanded in the capital region in the towns of Utica, East Fishkill, Canandaigua and Yorktown Heights. The governor's office has said that this private investment would create 2,500 high-technology jobs and 1,900 construction jobs, and would also preserve 2,500 existing jobs. New York State will invest an additional \$400 million over five years in equipment and technology in the SUNY College for Nanoscale Science Engineering. Mr. Cuomo and other lawmakers have expressed hope that this new research and development will increase New York's attractiveness to other major technology corporations and lead to further investment and job growth in the high-technology industry.

FPI Identifies Mass Transit Investment As Key Source to NYS Recovery

Over the last decade New York State has lost 220,000 jobs in the manufacturing industry, which has long been a strong source of family-sustaining wages and health benefits. Other positive characteristics of the manufacturing industry include a high multiplier impact, contribution to sustainable growth and strong support for entrepreneurship, technological innovation and productivity improvements. A new white paper released by the Fiscal Policy Institute emphasizes these positive economic attributes of the manufacturing sector and the important role it has played in the nation's recovery, while noting the fact that "long-term success lies in identifying America's competitive advantage in a global economy." To this end, FPI stresses the necessity of focusing on the creation of high value, technology-intensive products; within New York State this potential is identified as transit-related manufacturing.

Building New York's Future: Creating Jobs and Business Opportunities Through Mass Transit Investment highlights this strong potential by noting that New York State is centrally positioned in the Northeast's rail corridor, is home to the largest public transportation system in the United States, and has the largest base of transit-related manufacturing firms in the U.S. In fact, researchers at Duke University found that New York State has the largest number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 transit equipment manufacturers among all states, with 32 out of 249 national manufacturing locations for passenger and transit rail vehicles. While this demonstrates that New York State currently has a strong foundation for growth, the study also shows that there is a missed opportunity resulting from gaps in the domestic supply chain. Due to inconsistent domestic demand for transit equipment, many of the major transit equipment manufacturers that provide this public transport network with necessary high-tech parts are based outside the US.

In order to take advantage of this situation both the white paper and the Duke study stress the need for larger and more consistent investments in passenger and transit rail. Significant job creation and business development would take place through the implementation of a mass public transport strategy that increases mass transit infrastructure and invests in the manufacturing sector. Brian Lombardozzi, Timothy Mathews and James Parrott, the report's authors, point out that "a redoubled effort to maximize the in-state production of transit equipment needed by the MTA [which has allocated purchases of \$3.7 billion in train cars and buses and \$4 billion in signaling and communications equipment in its 2010-2014 budget] will also position New York State to serve the broader U.S. transit market." The authors of the report emphasize the importance of focusing procurement practices as well as state and local economic development investments on fostering skills of local workers in New York State.

(FPI Mass Transit report continues on pg. 4)



CUNY Colleges Win Nearly \$20 Million Grant for Adult Job Training

The City University of New York's Career PATH program for job training and workforce development made up of a consortium of six community colleges – Borough of Manhattan, Bronx, Hostos, Kingsborough, LaGuardia and Queensborough - and two four-year colleges - the College of Staten Island and New York City College of Technology - won a \$19,860,087 grant administered by the U.S. Department of Labor in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is part of nearly \$500 million in grants announced Sept. 26 going to 32 programs nationwide, and is the only one received in New York State. According to the announcement and CUNY press release, this is the first installment in a \$2 billion, four-year investment which, in combination with President Obama's proposed American Jobs Act, is designed to provide additional support for hiring and re-employment services to increase opportunities for the unemployed. The grants are aimed at targeted training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers who are changing careers. These workers are described as ones who are "often older and with stable employment histories, who lose jobs due to business shutdown or layoff." CUNY's Career PATH program aims to strengthen connections among college transition programs, occupational training and degree programs.

For more info: <http://bit.ly/nOuEzS>

(NYCHA Resident Training Academy Model continues from pg. 1)

Qualified graduates from the janitorial training track received job placement assistance for jobs at NYCHA as caretakers. Qualified graduates from the construction training track received job placement assistance for jobs with NYCHA contractors and at NYCHA in a variety of construction positions. 138 individuals completed the Resident Training Academy and 89% were successfully placed in jobs.

The success of the first year of the Academy has led to a significant expansion in the year ahead. Robin Hood is investing \$1.2M and the Resident Training Academy will train 460 individuals. NEW and BWI will continue to be training providers for the program, and the New York City College of Technology, the Center for Family Life, and St. Nick's Alliance will also be operating programs. In addition to the construction and janitorial training track, there will now also be opportunities to be a training track to prepare residents for jobs at NYCHA as Pest Control Technicians and in the private sector. The substantial majority of trainees are expected to secure jobs with NYCHA and NYCHA contractors, but placements are also expected to be made at private employers.

In the coming year, BWI will be training individuals for Housing Caretaker and Pest Control Technician positions. The New York City College of Technology and NEW will be training individuals for jobs in construction. The Center for Family Life and St. Nick's Alliance are instructing residents to become Pest Control Technicians.

"The New York City Housing Authority Resident Training Academy is a prime example of NYCHA's new approach to resident economic empowerment. We are thrilled that today we have more than 100 additional NYCHA residents working at the Authority and with our vendors thanks to the Training Academy," said John B. Rhea, NYCHA Chairman. "NYCHA is committed to leveraging our assets, local community resources, and the power of public-private partnerships to support residents to reach their employment goals. We are grateful to Robin Hood and our partners for their investment and commitment to expanding economic opportunities for NYCHA residents."

NYCHA is trying to work with local partners, such as NYCETC members, to identify gaps in service offerings and develop strategies to attract the high-quality and relevant resources and proven economic opportunity models into public housing neighborhoods. NYCHA is hosting a special information session for NYCETC members to learn more about REES, NYCHA's efforts to facilitate greater access to services for residents, and referral opportunities to the Resident Training Academy. The information session will be located at 787 Atlantic Avenue on Thursday, October 13th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Dayanna Torres at Dayanna.Torres@nycha.nyc.gov or (718) 218-1538.

