

WorkSource MONTGOMERY
*Connecting Employers & Job Seekers*

# INSIDE *WORKSOURCE*

Your inside scoop on WSM resources, training, and events—straight to your inbox.

**FALL 2026**

## MESSAGE FROM WSM'S PRESIDENT & CEO

Partners,



As we close Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), I am proud of what we accomplished together through the power of partnership. Throughout the year, we expanded access to training, career services, and work-based learning opportunities for students, job seekers, federal workers, and many others navigating career transitions. This progress was made possible by the strong collaboration among employers, community-based organizations, educational institutions, government leaders, and workforce partners across the region. To formally close out the year, we look forward to releasing a comprehensive FY26 Impact Report in the coming months.

Looking ahead to FY27, we are preparing for the implementation of the H.R.1 SNAP and Medicaid work-related requirements. Workforce leaders, human services agencies, and community partners throughout Montgomery County and the region are working together to ensure individuals can engage in meaningful workforce activities that not only meet program requirements but also lead to skills development, employment, and long-term economic mobility.

As we begin this new fiscal year, we are also pleased to welcome new leadership to the Montgomery County Workforce Development Board. Michelle Bell of 1st Choice has been elected Chair, and Todd Cohen of Lockheed Martin has been elected Vice Chair. Their experience, leadership, and commitment to workforce development will help guide our efforts as we continue building a stronger and more inclusive workforce system for Montgomery County. In this issue, you'll learn more about Michelle and Todd's valuable perspectives they bring to their new leadership roles.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to Omar Lazo, former Chair, and Christa Tichy, former Vice Chair, for their exceptional service to the Board, our county, and the regional workforce system. Their leadership has played an important role in advancing our mission and strengthening our impact throughout the community.

As always, thank you to our Board members, staff, funders, employers, elected officials, and community partners for your continued support and collaboration. We look forward to continuing this important work together in FY27.

Sincerely,

Anthony Featherstone

# MESSAGES FROM OUR CHAIRMEN

## Michelle Bell – Chair, Montgomery County Workforce Development Board, President & CEO at 1st Choice Staffing, LLC



**Q: What inspired you to take on this leadership role with the Montgomery County Workforce Development Board?**
A: Montgomery County is at a pivotal moment in its workforce evolution, facing both challenges and opportunities. I accepted this role because I believe in the power of workforce development to strengthen talent pipelines, expand opportunity, and support economic growth. As Chair, I look forward to bringing together business, education, government, and community partners to help build a responsive, inclusive, and future-ready workforce system.

**Q: What workforce challenges or opportunities are you most excited to help address during your term?**
A: I am particularly excited to help address labor shortages in key industries such as healthcare, technology, and construction while expanding access to training and career pathways. I also see tremendous opportunity in the continued growth of Montgomery County's life sciences sector and want to ensure more residents can connect to these high-demand, high-wage careers. Above all, I am committed to advancing equitable access to opportunity for all members of our community.

**Q: What has your own career journey taught you about the importance of workforce development and creating opportunities for others?**
A: My career has shown me firsthand how access to training, employment, and support can transform lives. Workforce development is more than filling jobs. It is about creating pathways to stability, economic mobility, and long-term success. I believe that when we invest in people and create opportunities for others, we strengthen our entire community.

## Todd Cohen – Vice-Chair, Montgomery County Workforce Development Board, Senior Lead of Strategic Workforce Development at Lockheed Martin



**Q: What inspired you to take on this leadership role with the Montgomery County Workforce Development Board?**
A: Driving Lockheed Martin's workforce development programs is my profession, but as a Montgomery County resident and parent of two teens, I'm personally invested in seeing our community flourish. As a board leader, I hope to do my part in equipping local talent with the skills that power our economy.

**Q: What workforce challenges or opportunities are you most excited to help address during your term?**
A: I'm most enthusiastic about amplifying industry's voice at the board level and embedding it throughout every board initiative–because when industry sets the strategic agenda, regional workforce development can thrive.

**Q: What has your own career journey taught you about the importance of workforce development and creating opportunities for others?**
A: I got to where I am through a mix of hard work and people who opened doors for me even when I was still unproven. That taught me that talent alone doesn't get discovered. People need support and opportunity to succeed in their careers.

# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

## EMPOWERING FUTURE BUSINESS OWNERS THROUGH COOPERATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In June, WorkSource Montgomery partnered with Beloved Community Incubator (BCI), Montgomery County Health & Human Services (HHS) Child Care Support Services, and the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) to host an introductory information session for Montgomery County residents. The event brought together 24 attendees interested in learning about innovative pathways to entrepreneurship and economic opportunity.




The session introduced attendees to employee-owned enterprises and worker cooperative business models, including a cooperative development program being launched by BCI.

Participants learned how cooperative ownership can create opportunities for income generation, financial stability, and long-term wealth building within their communities.

The new program is designed to support aspiring entrepreneurs in launching their own worker cooperatives through a structured 18-month cohort model. Participants will receive hands-on business development guidance, mentorship, and a guaranteed income of $500 per month throughout the program to help support their entrepreneurial journey.

HHS Child Care Support Services also broadened the conversation around entrepreneurship by sharing information on the process of becoming a licensed family child care provider. Attendees learned about the steps required to start a family child care business, including licensing requirements, available training and technical assistance, and resources to help providers successfully launch and sustain their programs.



To help ensure families could fully participate, Kiddie Keepers LLC provided onsite childcare for 13 children, helping remove a common barrier to attendance and making the event more accessible for parents and caregivers.

This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment to expanding economic opportunity and helping community members access the tools, resources, and support needed to build sustainable businesses and long-term financial stability.

# CONNECTING TALENT, EMPLOYERS & INDUSTRY PARTNERS

*This section highlights the employer-facing and partnership-driven work now aligned under WSM's new Talent Placement Solutions & Strategic Partnerships department — including hiring events, business outreach, and industry programs that connect job seekers with career opportunities.*

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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **ISPE CBA Mid-Atlantic Science & Technology Conference:** WSM connected with life sciences and technology employers to strengthen workforce partnerships.
- **Lafayette Federal Credit Union Hiring Event:** More than 40 job seekers met directly with recruiters to learn about available career opportunities.
- **BioHub Cohort 5 Graduation:** Participants completed training through WSM's partnership with the Maryland Tech Council, with several already securing placements.
- **Montgomery County Black Business Expo:** WSM attended the Montgomery County Black Business Expo, connecting with local businesses, entrepreneurs, partners, and county leaders to promote workforce development services for job seekers and businesses.
- **Quarterly Job & Resource Fair:** More than 230 job seekers and 35+ employers gathered at the Bethesda Marriott at Pooks Hill for networking and hiring opportunities.

## ALSO THIS QUARTER:

- **Emerging Leaders Program:** Participants strengthened leadership skills, deepened their knowledge of Montgomery County, and expanded their professional networks through Leadership Montgomery's Emerging Leaders program.
- **SciPhD:** Job seekers completed SciPhD, a hybrid career training program that helps scientists prepare for industry roles through self-paced modules, live coaching, one-on-one counseling, targeted resume support, and a Business of Science Certification.











- **Looking Ahead:** WSM's next Quarterly Job & Resource Fair on September 24th at East County Community Center**.** To register, **visit mwe.mayland.gov** event ID #119765.

# WSM ON THE MOVE

*This quarter, our Community Impact team was out in the community supporting job seekers, connecting with partners, and showing up for events that help strengthen Montgomery County's workforce ecosystem. Here are a few highlights from Q2:*




## GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

On April 17, we joined the MoCo CAP team at Gaithersburg Middle School to assist job seekers during Career Day — and we even had the chance to meet Gaithersburg Middle School alum and NBC4 Washington reporter Melissa Mollet!

On April 25, we were at Germantown Library assisting job seekers and sharing information about available workforce resources and support.

## NOURISH & FLOURISH HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR



On April 11, we participated in the inaugural Nourish and Flourish Health & Resource Fair at Gaithersburg High School. Led by Manna Food Center in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools and other community partners, the event brought organizations and residents together for a meaningful day of resources, support, and connection. Special thanks to Manna Food Center CEO Craig Rice and all of the partners and participants who helped make the day so impactful for the community.

## LAYC GED GRADUATION

On June 30, our Community Impact Director, James LeBlanc, attended the LAYC GED Graduation Ceremony with our Summer RISE intern, Sebastian. They were honored to be seated with Maryland Secretary of Labor Portia Wu as they celebrated the graduates and their accomplishments.



We look forward to continuing this work and showing up wherever we can help make a difference for our neighbors, partners, and community!

# JOB READINESS WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

*This quarter, our Instructional Services team continued to support job seekers, partners, and program teams through workshops and in-person learning opportunities designed to build confidence, strengthen job readiness, and expand access to career resources.*

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- In partnership with our Dual Track Reentry team, the team helped prepare participants for the Fair Chance Symposium by supporting a Job Readiness 101 workshop focused on discussing justice-impacted backgrounds, highlighting transferable skills, and strengthening interview performance.

- A new Networking Success Strategies workshop was launched to help job seekers recognize and work through imposter syndrome, build confidence, and expand their professional connections.

- The team also hosted and supported the first in-person quarterly MOCOCAP and Work-Based Learning information session, featuring presentations from MOCOCAP representatives Clifton Gadsden and Jazmin Muhammad.

- Through our partnership with MCPL's Maggie Nightingale Library in Poolesville, we also offered an in-person Job Search Strategies workshop with practical tools to support effective job search and career advancement.

Together, these activities reflect our continued commitment to meeting job seekers where they are and connecting them with the tools, guidance, and support they need to move forward.







**Check out WSM's monthly workshop calendar**

*You must have an account with the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) to register for workshops.

## DUAL TRACK RE-ENTRY HIGHLIGHTS

DUAL TRACK RE-ENTRY
EMPOWERING THE JUSTICE-IMPACTED

*This year, WSM Dual Track Reentry expanded opportunities for returning citizens through employer partnerships, community support, wellness training, and second-chance hiring initiatives.*

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- WorkSource Montgomery hosted its 3rd Annual Fair Chance Employment Symposium and Job Fair at the Silver Spring Civic Center, welcoming 500 attendees as well as over 50 employers and local resource partners while connecting returning citizens with job readiness support, employer introductions, and community resources.




- In recognition of Second Chance Month, the WSM Dual Track Reentry program received a proclamation from Montgomery County honoring its commitment to supporting returning citizens through workforce readiness, employment connections, and reentry services.




- With continued support from Give an Hour, the program is expanding workforce empowerment and wellness training through trauma-informed, individualized support and peer support sessions led by a former Dual Track Reentry client. These sessions help participants connect, share experiences, and build resilience on their recovery journey.



**Visit our website for info about our Re-Entry Services!**

## DUAL TRACK RE-ENTRY HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED

DUAL TRACK RE-ENTRY
EMPOWERING THE JUSTICE-IMPACTED

- In partnership with WSSC Water, the program launched *Turning the Tides*, a new initiative to create employment positions and career pathways for justice-impacted clients. The partnership builds on career information sessions that introduced participants to opportunities in administration, collections, electrical mechanics, maintenance, meter reading, and wastewater operations.
- As employer partnerships expand, DTS Worldwide Transportation conducted onsite interviews, resulting in hires through the program. Additional work-experience partnerships and monthly peer support sessions will help returning citizens build confidence, strengthen their skills, and increase stability as they reenter the workforce.







*This year, WSM Dual Track Reentry expanded opportunities for returning citizens through employer partnerships, community support, wellness training, and second-chance hiring initiatives.*

**"This program gave me a second chance to move forward and build a better future for myself. I encourage anyone looking for a fresh start to take advantage of the opportunity and allow this program to help them become the best version of themselves."**

**– Melvin M., *DTR client now employed with Pleasant Construction***

# OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH: LYFE HIGHLIGHTS

LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

*This quarter, the LYFE Program continued connecting young adults with career exploration, work experience, and employment opportunities across Montgomery County.*










- We welcomed Casaplex as a new Work Experience partner in the audio/visual industry. LYFE intern Sanchez Spence is gaining hands-on experience with Casaplex, including the opportunity to attend a conference with his team.
- We shared information about LYFE with employers during National Apprenticeship Week and Employer Engagement events, helping build awareness and identify potential partners and internship sites.
- We were proud to see former LYFE participant and WSM intern Stephen Hewitt return to WorkSource Montgomery as a staff member in the Performance and Compliance Department.
- We connected with Career Direct High School students, with support from MOCOCAP's Career Coaches at Seneca Valley, Springbrook, Poolesville, and Quince Orchard High Schools, to introduce students to LYFE and future career pathways.

We look forward to building on this momentum next quarter as we continue helping young adults explore career pathways and prepare for future employment!

**LYFE is actively enrolling new participants ages 16–24** and remains committed to helping young people launch their next chapter with the skills and support they need to succeed.

**Recruit future leaders - at no cost to you!**

## MOCOCAP HIGHLIGHTS:

*The Montgomery County Career Advising Program (MOCOCAP) empowers students in grades 6-12 to build the skills and confidence needed to navigate their careers for life through career exploration, advising, and real-world learning opportunities.*

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- The MOCOCAP program closed out another year in Montgomery County Public Schools, with Career Coaches reporting a total of **104,808 student interactions** for the 2025-26 school year.
- Career Coaches also coordinated **602 Meet A Pro** events throughout the school year and helped bring in more than **1,000 employers** to participate in Career Fairs across the county.
- In late April, MOCOCAP Student Advisory Council (SAC) members from 32 secondary schools came together for the **2026 Future-Ready SAC Summit** event, held at the Montgomery College Germantown campus. The inaugural event included workshops developed and led by SAC leaders focused on networking, marketing, and meeting planning, among other topics.
- The day also included campus tours, a resource fair, a reflection activity, and time for networking and connecting with fellow SAC leaders from throughout the county.
- The updated **Workday on Wheels (WoW)** program continued through June at 30+ MCPS middle school, where eighth-grade students got a hands-on look at real-world careers through interactive “workday” demos led by Career Coaches.















**Stay connected with MOCOCAP**

# COMMUNITY PARTNER OPPORTUNITY

## SEED NETWORK: MOCO ENTREPRENUER SURVEY

Well Center in Gaithersburg is launching the SEED (Social Enterprise and Entrepreneur Development) Network this summer — a community designed to support people who are starting or growing or scaling a business, nonprofit, or community initiative that creates positive change in Montgomery County.

They have opened a county-wide survey to help them support the community efficiently.  You can help make sure they're building the right thing by sharing your honest experience (including doubts and unmet needs) you will help Well Center build something Montgomery County truly needs.

**Click here to Start the Survey**

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# UPCOMING WSM EVENTS

**Click on the flyer to register for these upcoming events**




**Quarterly Job & Resource Fair: September 24**




**Biohub Manufacturing Masterclass: September Cohort**




**Job Fair Prep Workshop: September 17**




***For Employers* Fair Chance Hiring Event Vendor Registration**

# TOOLS, RESOURCES & SUPPORT

*WorkSource Montgomery connects job seekers, workers, employers, and community members to a wide range of workforce tools, resources, and support services designed to help them navigate career transitions and achieve their goals.*

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## AMERICAN JOB CENTERS (AJCs)

**American Job Centers (AJCs)** provide free workforce services to job seekers and employers, including career counseling, job search assistance, workshops, hiring events, training opportunities, and connections to employment resources throughout Montgomery County.

**Locate an American Job Center near you!**

## FEDERAL WORKERS CAREER CENTER (FWCC)

**Mobilize Montgomery** connects residents impacted by federal workforce reductions with job search resources, career services, workforce programs, and updates on available support. Through the **Federal Workers Career Center (FWCC)**, individuals can access personalized assistance, workshops, hiring events, and career transition resources.

MOBILIZE MONTGOMERY
Supporting the Federal Workforce in Montgomery County, MD

**Explore Mobilize Montgomery Resources!**

## MARYLAND WORKFORCE EXCHANGE (MWE)

The **Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE)** is Maryland's premier workforce system, connecting job seekers to thousands of job openings, hiring events, training opportunities, career exploration tools, labor market information, and other workforce resources available throughout the state.

Whether you're searching for a new job, exploring career pathways, or looking to enhance your skills, registering with MWE gives you access to a comprehensive set of employment tools and resources designed to support your career goals.

**Register for the Maryland Workforce Exchange!**

# SUCCESS STORIES

Every success story reflects the impact of workforce development in action. **Visit us online** to read inspiring stories from job seekers, students, employers, and community members whose lives have been transformed through WSM programs and services.

Do you have a WorkSource Montgomery success story of your own that you'd like to share? Fill out the form below. We'd love to hear it!

**Click here to Submit Your Success Story**

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# STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

We are always updating our calendar, training offerings, job opportunities, and other important news and post them to our social media channels. **Make sure you're following us for the latest!**

Follow us on social media

**Access our Quick Links**

Explore WorkSource Montgomery's upcoming opportunities and events at **www.worksourcemontgomery.com/calendar**

WorkSource Montgomery is a proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

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