

Background and Mission

Career Resources is a well-established non-profit workforce development organization that has achieved national recognition for preparing youth and adults in Southwestern Connecticut to gain employment and progress in their careers. Career Resources provides them with skills, resources, and support necessary for personal development, economic self-sufficiency, and career advancement, and also provides planning and staffing resources to the business community in support of workforce development.

Career Resources has a history of strong management and performance, operating on business principles that require staff to meet both quantitative and qualitative goals. Career

Resources has continually expanded its capacity to serve Southwestern Connecticut by offering new workforce development services that benefit both jobseekers and employers.

Career Resources is the Operator of CTWorks

CTWorks is a collaboration of state, regional, and local organizations that address the workforce development needs of both jobseekers and employers throughout Connecticut. Career Resources leads this collaborative in Southwestern Connecticut, overseeing the operation of centers that serve over 20,000 jobseekers annually, from Greenwich to Milford and into the Valley. Offices are located in Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, and Derby.

Career Resources operates

CTWorks Southwest – A collaborative regional project serving jobseekers and employers, with offices in Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport and the Valley. CTWorks offers jobseekers career information, a variety of workshops, occupational skills training opportunities, and linkages with employers seeking staff. CTWorks is funded through a grant from The WorkPlace, Inc.

EveryOne Works – A project located in CTWorks offices, offering jobseekers with disabilities access to adaptive technology, guidance, and specialized services.

S.T.A.R.S. Striving Toward Achievement, Renewal and Success – A program of counseling, education and individualized rehabilitative services for women referred by the criminal justice system. STARS is funded through a grant from the CT Court Support Services Division.

The Fatherhood Initiative – A nationally certified program including parenting skills, counseling and linkages to employment services for non-custodial fathers, funded through a grant from the CT Department of Social Services.

Passport to Success – A highly individualized self-sufficiency and employment-readiness program

for people in supported housing, funded through a grant from the Melville Charitable Trust.

STRIVE of Fairfield County – A highly effective job-readiness project that teaches positive attitudes and prepares economically and culturally disadvantaged jobseekers to succeed in the world of work.

The Community Network Center is a walk-in information and referral center located in the Bridgeport CTWorks office. Operated in partnership with InfoLine, the Center provides information regarding all types of resources, including those for childcare, transportation, housing, and food.

The CTWorks Career Coach – CTWorks' mobile unit, which includes satellite Internet access and eleven computer stations. The Coach can bring training to employers and individuals throughout Southwestern Connecticut.

Career Resources offers these basic services through CTWorks

- Outplacement services for business
- Testing, assessment, and career counseling for jobseekers
- Retraining as needed

In addition, jobseekers and employers can benefit from new services and partnerships Career Resources has put in place

- Career development services for low-wage workers
- Computer applications workshops – Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for both jobseekers and businesses
- Job readiness for supported housing clients (through partnerships with The Melville Charitable Trust, Alpha Community Services and the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services)
- ESL, GED and literacy classes (through partnerships with the Bridgeport Board of Education and Literacy Volunteers of America)
- Professional counselors to help jobseekers with stress management and other issues associated with unemployment (through partnerships with Family Services Woodfield and The Birmingham Group)
- Disabilities Initiative with specialized staff, ASL Interpreters, and assistive technology (through a partnership with The WorkPlace and the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services)
- Job Retention Support Groups for new workers (through a partnership with Dress for Success)
- Business Wardrobe Resources (through a partnership with Dress for Success)

Awards and National Recognitions

Through demonstrating expertise and strong leadership in its field, Career Resources has established credibility as a national leader in workforce development.

President George Bush honored Career Resources and its graduates at a White House ceremony highlighting the nation's welfare to work initiative. Career Resources graduates were the featured speakers.

The News Hour with Jim Lehrer featured Career Resources and two of its students who became homeowners through Career Resources' collaboration with Citibank.

The Boston Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration selected Career Resources for the 2003 Collaboration Award for promoting leadership and partnership among One-Stop Career Centers, business customers and community-based organizations and developing innovative and exemplary collaborative practices that can be replicated by other One-Stop Career Centers.

J.P. Morgan Chase named Career Resources a national finalist in the Awards for Workforce Excellence, presented by the Enterprise Foundation. Career Resources was among three organizations to receive that honor, given to workforce development organizations that demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of innovation and effectiveness in preparing jobseekers for employment, placing them into jobs with promising career paths, and helping them retain employment.

Senator Lieberman held a press conference featuring Career Resources' Fatherhood Initiative and praised the staff for its success working with families in economic transition.

Career Resources has demonstrated community and statewide leadership in employment, training, and support services, and is routinely sought out for technical assistance in building capacity in other organizations. Staff have presented both nationally and statewide on results-oriented leadership and workforce development. Our ability to attract new funding from a variety of sources testifies to the viability and vitality of our organization.