

# Project Empowerment

The District of Columbia's lead Transitional  
Employment Program

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DOES  
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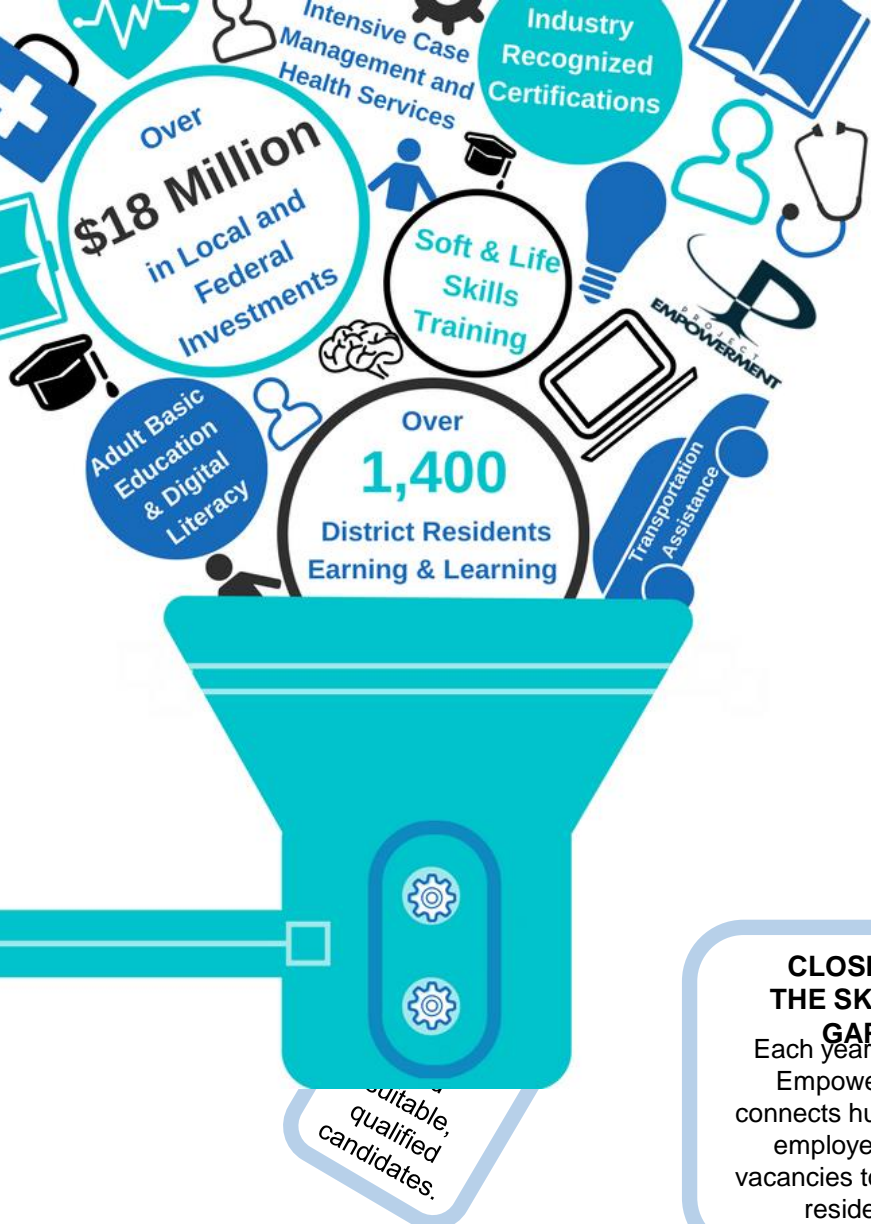


MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TRANSFORM LIVES

As part of Mayor Bowser's pledge to build pathways to the middle class, the District has prioritized local and federal investments in Transitional Employment Programs (TEPs). These programs are the most effective job training programs for individuals with barriers to employment, including: long-term TANF recipients, those experiencing homelessness, disconnected youth, and low-income seniors.





# Building a Pipeline

## CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

Each year, Project Empowerment connects hundreds of employers with vacancies to qualified residents.

## REDUCED RECIDIVISM

In 2016, only 4% of Project Empowerment participants on probation or parole were returned to incarceration due to violations.

## GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

In 2016, 412 Project Empowerment participants successfully transitioned to unsubsidized employment.

## HIGHER WAGES

In 2016, Project Empowerment graduates earned an average hourly wage of \$14.89 higher than the District minimum wage by over \$3.



Today, we're highlighting **Project Empowerment**, which serves Returning Citizens. Project Empowerment is successful because it serves the *whole individual*; providing soft skills training, supportive services, specialized referrals, work experience, and retention coaching, all while paying a subsidized wage. This means individuals don't need to choose between earning now and learning for the future.



# Earning While You Learn/Work/Train

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6 + Beyond
<b>TIMELINE</b>	<i>(Third Thursday of Every Month)</i>		<i>(Week 1 of Job Readiness)</i>	<i>(Week 2 of Job Readiness)</i>	<i>(Week 3 of Job Readiness)</i>	<i>(Job Search, Work Experience, Retention)</i>
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Orientation</b> Client: 1. Complete Urinalysis 2. Receive Appt. for meeting with intake specialist	<b>Enrollment</b> During intake meeting client: 1. Completes Employment Package 2. Completes VOS objective assessment. 3. Develops IEP	<b>Job Readiness</b> Client: 1. Takes eCASAS 2. Completes PE pre-test 3. Attends Job Readiness Classes	<b>Job Readiness</b> Client: 1. Completes CAAB 1:1 2. Attends Job Readiness Classes	<b>Job Readiness</b> Client: 1. Completes PE post-test 2. Attends Job Readiness Classes 3. Receives transportation benefits	<b>WEX</b> Client: 1. Starts WEX 2. Receive services from Job Coaches, DOH Specialists, CAAB representatives, etc. 3. Receives retention benefits

If participants successfully complete the three-week Job Readiness Training AND pass the second Urinalysis, they are paid a wage of **\$9/hour** for their completed time.

Participants are also able to earn a subsidized wage of \$9/hour for the duration of Work Experience, and Professional Development, paid for by Project Empowerment.

# Our Results

## In Fiscal Year 2015:

- 519 District residents successfully completed Project Empowerment's intensive, three-week Job Readiness Training (JRT).
- 388 participants, or 75% of graduates successfully transitioned from subsidized work experience to unsubsidized employment.
- 813 bonuses were paid out to participants who hit 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and one-year unsubsidized employment retention benchmarks.
- 23 inmates participated in the DC Jail Work Readiness Program, a rapidly-expanded extension of Project Empowerment at the DC Jail. Let's learn more about this initiative [HERE](#).



# Get in touch!

Together, we can make the District of Columbia labor market a national leader in innovative training and inclusive hiring.

[DOES.DC.GOV](https://does.dc.gov)

[PROJECTEMPOWERMENT at DC dot GOV](https://projectempowerment.dc.gov)

[WWW.PROJECTEMPOWERMENTDC.ORG](https://www.projectempowermentdc.org)