

UPDATE on CTC (meeting 10/11/18):

Sean Marshall, lead Business Service Representative of American Job Center (Mass BizWorks), presented examples of services offered by the agency that could be relevant to CTC.

Every individual seeking unemployment compensation is required first to visit an American Job Center (e.g., 1671 Worcester Rd, Framingham) and receive job counseling before they are eligible for those benefits. Additional services include training, resume preparation, interview techniques, etc., provided by funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.ⁱ

Sean noted that the most common struggle individuals in the centers had with regard to employment was transportation. His initial examples highlighted filling manufacturing jobs in the area—a key need of small businesses as well as large (such as Insulet). These and similar entry-level jobs are important in regional workforce and economic development.

Subsequently, he learned from CTC members that another key need was finding/hiring drivers for CoA vans used for both senior transportation (all towns) and employment shuttles currently offered in Maynard, Acton, Littleton, and Westford.

Although there are differing hiring agencies involved—towns such as Maynard recruit/hire drivers as town employees; Sudbury recruits and hires but drivers are employees of MWRTA—Sean recommended a brainstorming session of all interested parties, to determine how the Job Center could assist. One proposal was development of a regional pool of mobility trained (but not CORI'd) drivers from which towns could draw as needed. Sean did note that the majority of recruits would be for full-time positions. If CTC could regionalize, with relevant software, the use of CoA vans, then full-time drivers might be the most effective way forward.

Sean can be reached at: Sean@mswajc.com and at 516 317 3069.

ⁱ The Department of Labor (DOL), in coordination with the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS), has worked to prepare everyone for the implementation of WIOA. The WIOA Resource Page provides information and resources for States, local areas, non-profits and other grantees, and other stakeholders to assist with implementation of the Act. <https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>