



Officials cut the ribbon on the PA CareerLink center located at 3901 Market St. in West Philadelphia. Submitted Photo

Philadelphia Works opens new PA CareerLink center

The Philadelphia Tribune | Tribune Staff Report | October 25, 2016



Philadelphia Works, the city's workforce development board, opened a new center in West Philadelphia to service employers and job seekers.

The new facility located at 3901 Market St., is the fourth of four new integrated PA CareerLink centers now operating in convenient locations across the city.

"This final center opening is the culmination of our efforts over the past three years to completely reinvent the public workforce system for a 21st-century economy," said Mark Edwards,

president and CEO of Philadelphia Works.

"Our new integrated centers are the future of workforce service delivery for employers and job seekers alike. And we are readying

the launch of several digital components that will bring interactive career services directly to job seekers wherever they may be, whether on their mobile device, in their local community centers or right here at a PA CareerLink Philadelphia career center."

The new PA CareerLink Philadelphia centers ensure "one-stop shopping" for employers and career seekers alike, who can now receive comprehensive career placement services that connect qualified talent to open jobs. Career seekers can expect one-on-one career counseling, resume development and expanded workshops to assist with improving workplace skills that will make them more competitive in the job market. Employers can utilize candidate screening and hiring services including on-site hiring events, access to customized on-the-job training subsidies and other HR solutions that are designed to give small businesses the tools they need to make informed and cost-effective decisions to grow their business.

"We are excited to see what this new center will bring to the residents and business community of West and Southwest Philadelphia," said Mayor Jim Kenney.

IN THE NEWS

“The tremendous resurgence of University City over the past decade has now given way to the promise of economic prosperity for all corners of West Philadelphia. From Mantua to Cobbs Creek and Parkside to Paschalville, employers and career seekers now have a single, comprehensive hub where they can get connected.”

Careers seekers will be able to take advantage of on-site resources and an array of new virtual training programs via the PA CareerLink Philadelphia website via www.back2workphilly.com. The new site is an interactive online learning environment that offers free

career advice, job leads, training and resources to help career seekers advance their prospects in a fun, game-like interface.

Improved virtual programming will be complemented by a new Community Connections program involving eight community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout the city who have signed agreements to partner with PA CareerLink to offer services in their neighborhoods. These agreements facilitate the referral process to and from PA CareerLink centers and the CBOs, training of CBO staff and on-site delivery of PA CareerLink workshops and the

opportunity for CBOs to provide services at PA CareerLink centers. Partners include The Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia KEYSPOTS, Philadelphia OIC, Opportunities Inc., the Philadelphia Housing Authority, Housing Authority Connections for Humanity, Diversified Community Services and the Philadelphia

Unemployment Project.

The West Philadelphia-based center is home to new, first-of-its-kind Youth and Young Adult Opportunity Hub. The Hub will connect youth with limited or no work experience to year-round and part-time job opportunities and expose them to career pathways through workshops and personalized counseling. This project will target youth and young adults ages 16-24 who live or attend school in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, with the goal of serving 250 youth over two years. The Hub will also serve as a pilot program to develop replicable and scalable strategies to

better connect youth in Philadelphia to quality jobs with family-sustaining wages. The Hub is funded by a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Career Pathways Summer Jobs and Beyond program.

During the past year, three additional PA CareerLink centers have relocated and are currently serving job seekers from across the city. The other locations include 1617 JFK Boulevard, 5847

Germantown Ave. and 4261 N. 5th St.

The new PA CareerLink Centers are operated by a consortium of workforce partners that include contracted service providers, L&I, PA Department of Human Services and the L&I Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. ■