

Press Release

Tuesday, September 30, 2025



Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Partners in Regional Recovery-to-Work Initiative

Youngwood, PA — The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is proud to join the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board (lead grantee), Partner4Work, and the Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board to continue building the Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Recovery Ecosystem. This initiative, supported by funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) INSPIRE Initiative, is focused on helping individuals in recovery from substance use disorder and those reentering the workforce after incarceration take their next steps toward meaningful employment.

The effort covers nine Appalachian counties across Southwestern Pennsylvania, including Westmoreland and Fayette, where WFWIB will play a vital role in making sure local residents have access to training, career services, and the wraparound support they need to succeed.

"Our region has certainly felt the challenges of substance use disorder, and too often, people working hard to rebuild their lives encounter barriers to employment," said Janet Ward, Executive Director of WFWIB. "This project is about opening doors. By aligning our work with Tri-County WIB and our partner boards, we can ensure that individuals in recovery or returning to the workforce have real opportunities to find stability and grow."

In addition to supporting participants, the initiative emphasizes the importance of working with employers to strengthen the local talent pipeline. Recovery-friendly workplace practices, job training programs, and stronger connections between businesses and job seekers will be central to the program's success.

This initiative is about more than jobs. It's about giving people a fair chance to rebuild their lives, support their families, and contribute to the places they call home.



About the Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth across the Appalachian region.

About the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is a non-profit entity consisting of appointees from the business, education, and labor sectors of Westmoreland-Fayette counties. The board is empowered to lead workforce development activities in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. The WFWIB is funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides funding to federal workforce programs and local Workforce Development Boards. The WFWIB oversees the three PA CareerLink® centers that are located in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties: PA CareerLink® Westmoreland County at Youngwood, PA CareerLink® Fayette County, and PA CareerLink® Alle-Kiski.

For more information about the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, please visit www.WestFayWIB.org.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For federal funding information, visit www.westfaywib.org/resources/.

Presented By:

Janet Ward | Executive Director



724-755-2145



jward@westfaywib.org



www.westfaywib.org