



March 22, 2021

RE: *Competitive Integrated Employment Services (CIES)*

Dear Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman Ferrante, Vice Chairwoman Friedman, Assistant Vice Chairman Donato and Assistant Vice Chairman Lewis:

Our organizations provide (or support) *Competitive Integrated Employment Services (CIES)* on behalf of the Commonwealth through contracts with the Department of Transitional Assistance. **CIES is the state's only welfare-to-work program**; it helps individuals who are receiving state assistance transition off welfare.

Over the last two fiscal years for which complete data is available – FY '18 and FY '19 – the CIES program helped **nearly 2,800 individuals** find and secure jobs. More than **86 percent of those individuals still had jobs 90 days later**; they were able to leave the welfare rolls and become taxpaying residents of Massachusetts due in large part to the CIES program.

We appreciate the Legislature's historic support of CIES in the Employment Services Program line item (4401-1000). As you engage in budget discussions for FY '22, we urge you to make a continued investment in CIES and help individuals throughout Massachusetts receive the critical job training that they need to find work and secure employment. **Please include the following language in your FY '22 budget proposal** in the Employment Services Program line item (4401-1000):

provided further, that the department shall spend not less than the amount spent in fiscal year 2021 for the young parents program and the competitive integrated employment services program;

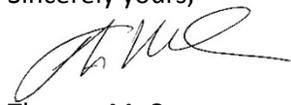
The majority of CIES clients who come to us are women of all ages from throughout the state who are seeking employment to support their families. Historically, they have been able to secure positions in the business, early education, customer service, dental and nursing, home health, human services and/or medical industries to name just a few. These constituents would be willing to meet with you to

discuss how this program helps them “make it in Massachusetts,” as many are young mothers and this may be their first real job experience.

Further, you may know that CIES contracts are *performance*-based. If we are not achieving desired outcomes – for example, job placement – we do not receive a reimbursement for providing that component of the service. It is a challenging provision in this era of full employment, but we are committed to the outcome. Some of us have run these programs for more than 20 years, and we’ve seen them continually make a difference in the lives of parents and their children.

At a time when so many are out of work due to this global pandemic, the CIES program is – perhaps now more than ever – critical to the employment of individuals in our Commonwealth. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the program in more detail. We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you’ll support the above language in your FY ’22 budget proposals.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Connors
President/CEO
American Training, Inc.



Craig Stenning
President/CEO
Community Work Services

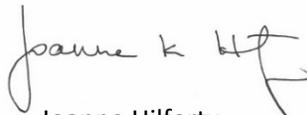


Bonnie Mello
President/CEO
LifeStream



Jeff Thielman
President/CEO

International Institute of New England



Joanne Hilferty
President/CEO

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

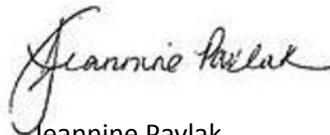


Monalisa Smith
Founder/President

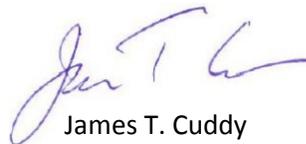
Mothers for Justice &
Equality



Allison Joseph
Executive Director
MY TURN, Inc.



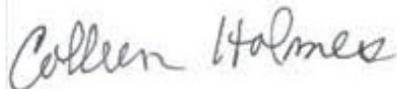
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Triangle, Inc.



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President/CEO
Providers' Council

cc: Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano
Senate President Karen E. Spilka