

## **Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative: Providing Training and Access to Better Employment Options**

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The Presbytery of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Women's Empowerment Initiative (WEI) have established the Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative (PWTPI).

The Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative will address the critical challenge of employment and occupational dislocation and job training in urban Philadelphia. The ultimate goal is to make a difference in the lives of low-income, unemployed and under-employed Philadelphians. A significant byproduct of the venture is the transformation of urban communities through facilitating access to means of self-sufficiency.



Key partners in the PWTPI are: Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation (PWDC), Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), Philadelphia Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) and CVS. Major components of the Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative are (1) training, (2) workforce readiness, and (3) workforce placement.

Official kick-off of the Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative is slated for July 2009 with an initial trainee base of 50-100 persons. The PWTPI trainee recruitment and referral effort will be through community-based organizations, churches -- particularly in West Philadelphia -- and other clients as well as parents involved in Presbytery or church-related programs. One of the most promising sources of recruitment is parents of the 800 children enrolled in the Presbytery's Head Start Learning Centers.

Targeted training and placement disciplines include: Medical Assistant, Receptionist/Administrative, Customer Service, Pharmacy Technician and "green" jobs (e.g., HVAC Specialists, Machinists and Industrial Production workers trained in energy efficiency techniques).

The Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative will seek cooperative engagement with other training and placement programs, churches, community organizations, and potential employers. The underlying premise of this approach is that working together will yield greater rewards for those we all seek to prepare for success.